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## Black Watch soldiers 'swore oaths to Hong Kong triads'

**FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG**

BRITISH troops from the Black Watch regiment said to have sworn a blood oath of allegiance to a Chinese secret society are to get immunity from prosecution in Hong Kong in exchange for information on Triad crime gangs.

to join the Sun Yee On Triad, one of the biggest and most ruthless of the illegal Chinese secret societies. Triad membership is a criminal offence in Hong Kong. But at least a dozen soldiers went through the full initiation ceremony after they began moonlighting as bouncers in bars and nightclubs controlled by the gangs, the newspaper said.

last tour of duty in August 1994, and are not believed to have continued their involvement with the Chinese underworld in the UK. The regiment will go back to Hong Kong in February 1997.

The Hong Kong Administration, which is trying to project an image of clean government before the change of sovereignty.

comers but the Triads thought it was easier to find bouncers who could deal with them in English.

Hong Kong police, with its long experience of Triads. They also said the garrison would normally be contacted if soldiers were brought back to Hong Kong.

any case. "But I can't give you a categorical denial."

## Tories trade insults over defection

**BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT**

TORY party infighting escalated yesterday as leading figures from the Right and Left traded insults in the wake of Emma Nicholson's defection to the Liberal Democrats.

chairman of the Maceled group of centre-left Tory backbenchers, also suggested that John Major bore some of the blame for the turmoil engulfing his Government.

had chosen in living memory" and one that continued to resist the Right's diagnosis of the Government's political ills.

Police fear for woman missing in Thailand

BRITONS returning from Thailand are being urged to contact police if they have any information about Johanne Masheder, a young solicitor, who has disappeared while on a back-packing holiday.



Joanne Masheder who has disappeared while on a back-packing holiday

**Saudi king hands over power to half-brother**

**BY MICHAEL BRYNON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR**

KING FAHD of Saudi Arabia yesterday handed over the running of his country to his half-brother, Crown Prince Abdullah, saying that he needed to rest after suffering a stroke in November.

### New owners for New Look

Tom Singh and his family have sold New Look, one of the largest retailers of women's clothing, to institutional investors for £170 million.

### Liverpool come from behind

Stan Collymore scored against his former club, Nottingham Forest, as Liverpool turned a two-goal deficit into a 4-2 victory in the FA Carling Premiership yesterday.

### Internet Times

The Internet edition of The Times is now available on <http://www.the-times.co.uk>

## Bar chairman denounces Howard's sentencing plan

**BY FRANCES GIBB AND RICHARD FORD**



Penry-Davey: attack on get-tough policy

THE Home Secretary is on a collision course with the legal profession and judiciary over his plans for minimum sentences to be outlined in a White Paper this spring.

of between five and ten years for people convicted again of carrying an illegal firearm.

## Burst pipes add to seasonal misery

**BY ADRIAN LEE**

MILLIONS of homes across Britain were without water yesterday as the new year thaw revealed burst pipes and mains.

Forecast, page 18

## Royal Family cuts foreign trips for work in Britain

**BY JEREMY LAURANCE**

THE busiest members of the Royal Family reduced their overseas visits by a third last year and devoted more of their time to work in Britain.

as listed in the Court Circular of The Times, from more than 1,500 in 1994 to 977 in 1995.

more than 1,500 engagements in Britain in 1995, more than a quarter up from the previous year.

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# Fears persist that dwindling Conservative majority will affect peace talks

## Unionists get no deals for backing Major

By Andrew Pierce

SIR PATRICK MAYHEW, the Northern Ireland Secretary, yesterday told the Ulster Unionists not to expect any secret deals in return for their promise not to bring down the Government.

However, this has failed to allay fears in Dublin and at Westminster that the Unionists might be looked on more favourably by the Government in the negotiations for a settlement in Northern Ireland.

There was speculation last night that the Government would approve Unionist proposals for an elected convention in Northern Ireland. The proposals have been given a cool reception in Dublin.

Emma Nicholson's defection to the Liberal Democrats has made the support of the nine Ulster Unionist MPs crucial to the Government's survival. At the weekend they pledged not to vote with Labour in a no-confidence motion.

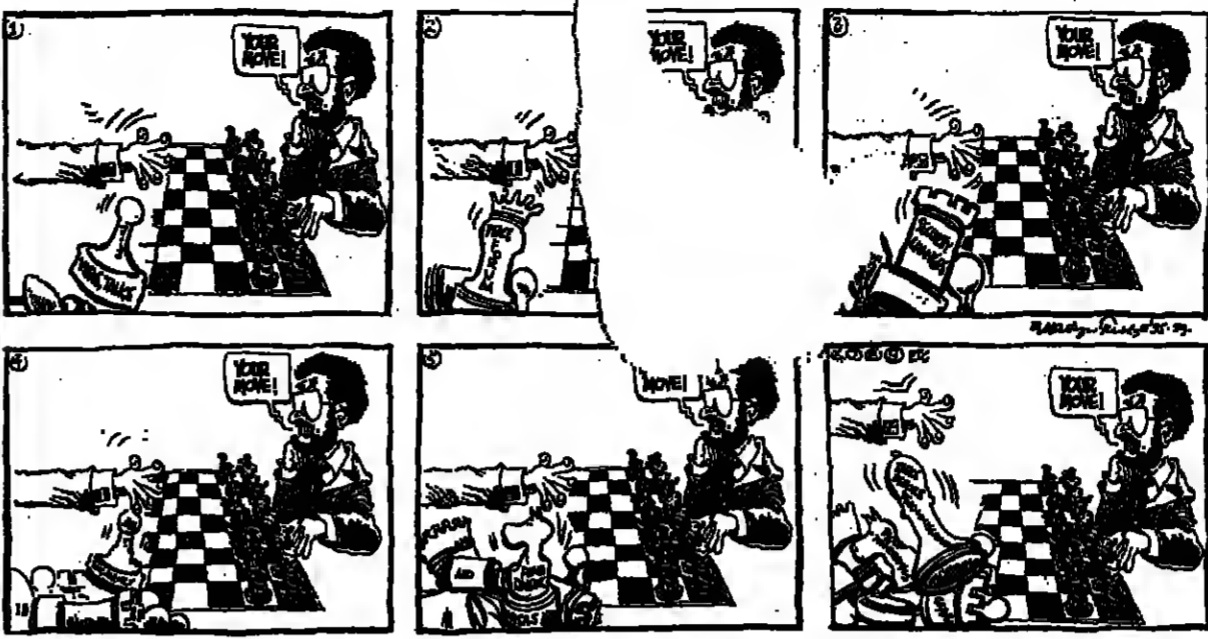
Sir Patrick, in a BBC interview, said that the Government had always listened to the Ulster Unionists, who represented the largest number of people in Northern Ireland. "But the Government will do its duty according to what it considers to be right. I recognise no difference in the essential equation by reason of events in the last few days or even a longer period."

Pressure on the Government intensified when Cardinal Cahal Daly, the leader of Ireland's Roman Catholics, said it would be "most unfortunate" if the Tories' shrinking majority at Westminster held up progress for a peaceful solution.

The Cardinal, speaking at a mass for World Peace Day in his Armagh archdiocese, said: "It may well be politically difficult for John Major to initiate significant political movement in Northern Ireland at this time, but it would



Turner and the cartoon that particularly incensed Sinn Fein. He says the party must "grow up" and learn to accept criticism in order to take part in democratic politics



## Sinn Fein accuses cartoonist of 'cruelty' to Adams

By Nicholas Watt  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRELAND'S leading cartoonist has so infuriated Sinn Fein by depicting Gerry Adams as a blood-stained defender of terrorists that the party has accused him of cruelty.

Martin Turner, who has become the first cartoonist to be named as Ireland's top political commentator, laughs off the criticism. The cartoonist, whose political sketches in the *Irish Times* influence thinking on both sides of the border, has

told Sinn Fein to "grow up". Sinn Fein was particularly incensed by one cartoon in which Mr Adams was drawn sitting on one side of a chess board repeatedly shouting "Your Move" as America, Ireland and Britain grant him a string of concessions. Sinn Fein, which is sensitive about seeing its president drawn as a bearded fanatic, squinting behind his glasses, wrote to Mr Turner to complain after he allowed the Northern Ireland Office to print the cartoon in an information booklet. The party also accused Mr Turner of

stingling out the IRA for more criticism than the loyalists. Mr Turner, 47, an Englishman, graduated from Queen's University Belfast in 1971, and started his journalistic career in Northern Ireland editing the political magazine *Fortnight*. However, he was always determined to be a cartoonist. He says: "It's a bit strange that Sinn Fein should accuse me of being cruel to them after what they did for 25 years. It's part of the growing-up process. If they want to take part in democratic politics, they will have to get used to

commentators using what weapons we have to criticise them." Mr Turner, who describes himself as a "non-unionist, non-nationalist, non-violent, non-entire", has spared nobody in the past year as he lampoons politicians over the peace process. The Rev Ian Paisley's eyes roll in permanent disgust and John Major looks bemused by the difficulties. The cartoonist has just published a collection of his work entitled *Pack up Your Troubles*. Sitting in his studio at home in Co Kildare he says that most people in Northern

Ireland are sick of paramilitaries and want to get on with their lives. "My thesis is that the majority of people in Northern Ireland don't care about politics. They are interested in jobs and secure homes. They vote along tribal lines but that does not mean they devote their entire lives to pursuing those goals," he says. His book was "for the people who have been pursuing the peace process in their daily lives for the last 25 years (not just the last 25 minutes) by not joining in the nonsense we call the Troubles."

be most unfortunate if any plausibility were given to the suspicion the peace in Northern Ireland would be allowed to suffer because of internal political difficulties at Westminster."

However, Sir Patrick insists that the even-handed approach of ministers to the peace process in Ulster would not be affected by the reduction

in the Government's majority. He said: "I believe that there is a very strong public desire to see all-party talks conducted on a fair basis with everybody sitting around the table fully committed to democratic and peaceful means." The Cardinal said he believed that John Major was committed to a peaceful solution.

"If he can deliver this, it could be his greatest political achievement and would ensure his place in history. I earnestly hope that, in cooperation with the Irish Government and with the agreement of the political parties in Northern Ireland, he will succeed in bringing this about. What is certain is that there is now an urgent

need to move into inclusive political talks. I believe that prolonged failure to do so is fraught with grave risks." Cardinal Daly added: "It is more than high time now to see negotiations under way as soon as possible so that paramilitary weapons may be decommissioned as a concomitant and as a consequence of political progress."

The Dublin Government has viewed with deepening suspicion the developments at Westminster since the defection of Miss Nicholson. One senior government source said: "There is a fear, and has been for some time, that the British Government is placing too much emphasis on the views of the Ulster Unionists. We are aware the parliamentary situation in London is a factor in the peace process. Recent developments have exacerbated that."



Sir Patrick Mayhew said yesterday that the defection of Emma Nicholson would not affect peace prospects, a fear expressed by Cardinal Cahal Daly. Ken Maginnis said Unionists were "not expecting any special deals" Paul Bew, Professor of Irish

## Tory think-tank seeks end to redundancy law

By Nicholas Wood, Chief Political Correspondent

TORY policy advisers are to urge John Major to sweep away the framework of laws protecting workers against redundancy and unfair dismissal. They believe that employment protection legislation dating from the 1960s interferes with the free operation of the labour market, destroying jobs and holding back the economy.

The radical proposals, which will be bitterly contested by Labour, are to be published next week in a paper from *Politica*, the newest of the Conservative think-tanks, which has close links with 10 Downing Street.

Warwick Lightfoot, the report's author and a former Treasury adviser, is expected to argue that the Prime Minister's ambition of making Britain the "enterprise centre of Europe" will be threatened unless he is prepared to mount fresh assault on red tape.

Mr Lightfoot agrees that the steps taken in the 1980s, which included seven employment laws aimed at eroding the power of trade unions, have succeeded big gains, giving Britain the most liberal labour market in the European Union. But he is understood to believe that the existing "spaghetti" of rules still distorts employers' decisions, reduces productivity and raises unemployment.

He is expected to call for a repeal of the Redundancy Payments Act 1965 - which gave workers an entitlement to a lump-sum payment if they lost their jobs - and a new Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1973, which has 160 sections and 14 schedules and is "out of date and against unfair dis-

missal. Instead, employers and employees would be free to negotiate their own terms and conditions of employment and aggrieved workers would be free to sue in the ordinary courts rather than seek recourse in employment tribunals. More jobs would be created and competition between firms for staff would prevent exploitation, he believes.

Mr Lightfoot is understood to claim that workers operating in a deregulated labour market would be in much the same position as consumers in a highly competitive high street. Just as shoppers can go elsewhere if a store is charging too much or offering substandard goods, so workers would be able to shop around for good employers.

A danger of the existing system is that the courts can interpret different and seemingly unrelated sets of regula-

tions in bizarre ways - for instance the House of Lords decision forcing the Government to extend employment protection legislation to part-time workers to avoid falling foul of an EU directive on discrimination against women. But Mr Lightfoot will not advocate a free-for-all. Legislation protecting young workers and covering health and safety and discrimination would remain.

The vast majority of vacancies available through jobcentres do not pay a living wage for a couple with two children, according to the Manchester-based Low Pay Unit. A year-end analysis of vacancy data from all the major jobcentres in Greater Manchester shows that more than nine out of ten jobs pay less than £200 a week. A quarter of all the jobs paid below the National Insurance threshold of £58 a week.

## Times crossword open to doubles

By Brian Greer, Crossword Editor

A QUARTER of a century after its inception, The Times Crossword Competition will for the first time this year contain a doubles as well as a singles championship.

Many readers do the crossword with a friend or partner and we hope that they will now be encouraged to have a go together, knowing they will be pitted against others who also prefer to work in tandem.

Aberlour, producers of Single Highland Malt Scotch whisky, are sponsoring the competition and from this week onwards will also be providing the prizes for the Saturday Prize Crossword. Successful competitors at the regional finals can look forward to taking home a bottle of the malt and we expect that all competitors will have a chance to sample the product.

The basic format of the competition remains the same, with all competitors required to tackle four normal puzzles during the course of an afternoon. But this year we hope to eliminate the Eliminator, which may disappoint some who look forward to this annual torment, but will mean that nobody need be disappointed at an early stage.

Subject to confirmation when the first qualifying puzzle is published on Thursday, January 18, the venues for the regional finals will be: Manchester (Sunday, February 25); Edinburgh (Sunday, March 31); Bristol (Sunday, April 28); London (Saturday, May 25); Birmingham (Sunday, July 7). By moving to a large hotel ballroom for the London event, we hope to accommodate everyone who wants to take part on a single afternoon.

Crosswords, pages 18, 36

## MP says fishermen face more cuts in quotas

By Andrew Pierce

FURTHER cuts in fishing quotas were predicted by a Conservative MP yesterday as the Royal Navy patrolled the waters known as the Irish Box to prepare for the latest incursion by Spanish vessels.

*HMS Lindsfarne*, the fisheries protection vessel, moved into the waters as a European Union agreement took effect, giving 40 Spanish vessels access to the seas around Ireland.

David Harris, the MP for St Ives and chairman of the Tory fisheries committee, has written to the Prime Minister to call for changes to the European Union's Common Fisheries Policy, which is strongly opposed by fishermen in the South West.

Mr Harris, whose constituency includes the fishing port of Newlyn, said that admitting the Spanish boats would lead to further cuts in quotas and made a mockery of con-



The result is going to be massive over-fishing of stocks already under pressure.

He said it would be difficult to ensure that there were only 40 Spanish boats at a time in the box. The capacity for deception was vast in a huge area of sea where boats could dodge in and out. "I am highly sceptical of the ability to police. They will not be able to control it," he said. Mr Harris, who last month voted against the Government in the Commons vote on Spanish access

to the area, said the agreement was a black day for the fishing industry. He said that more control of home waters had to be handed back to EU member states, with stocks conserved through net sizes and protected areas rather than just quotas.

Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, told BBC Radio 4's *The World At One* yesterday that the Spanish would not be getting any extra fish by coming into the Irish Box. "They will be policed equally fiercely on the catches that they take to make sure the fish are the proper size and are within quota, as much as ensuring that there are no more than 40 trawlers at any one time in the Irish Box," he said.

"I have no reason to think other than that the Spanish will fully comply. They have already started to do so. They have provided the names of the first 20 trawlers which are going to be in the Irish Box and the exact day they are going to be fishing.

"It will be a very strict Spanish skipper who seeks to break the rules. If he does he will be brought in and he will be prosecuted."

Jun Portus, of the South West Fish Organisers, said the presence was not always a deterrent. "I don't think it will be."

A Ministry of Fisheries spokesman said yesterday that new fishing gear was not yet in use. "More will be known in a few

## Villagers fight to ground housing plan for airbase

By Michael Hornsby  
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for a new housing estate on a former RAF airbase in the Oxfordshire countryside are emerging as a crucial test of the Government's rural White Paper.

Oxfordshire County Council is considering a proposal to build 5,000 houses on the 1,200-acre Upper Heyford base, six miles northwest of Bicester, which was used by the US Air Force from the 1950s until 1993.

On the face of it, the scheme looks tailor-made for John Gummer, the Environment Secretary. By 2005 he wants half of all new houses to be built on previously developed land - so-called "brownfield" sites.

But the Upper Heyford proposal has provoked huge opposition from local people who say it would destroy the rural character of the Cherwell Valley. Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, whose Banbury constituency includes Upper Heyford, has called the idea crazy and unjustified.

"A settlement of 5,000 houses would be twice the size of Chipping Norton and about the same size as Kidlington and would be completely out of proportion," he said. "Our area of the county has already taken more than its fair share of new housing." It was the formerly Tory-led Cherwell Dis-

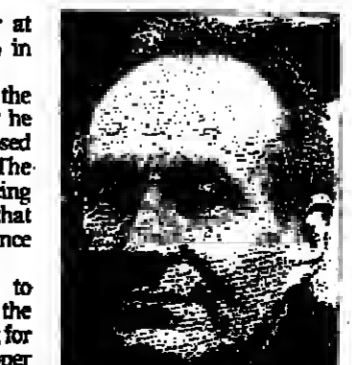
trict Council which first encouraged the idea of a large housing estate at Upper Heyford. Second thoughts set in after last May's local elections, when control passed to a loose alliance of Labour and Liberal Democrat councillors.

Patrick Burke, the council's policy planning officer, said: "We want to see the site developed, but with no more than 1,000 houses and associated commercial facilities to provide about 1,500 jobs, coupled with afforestation of the rest of the land."

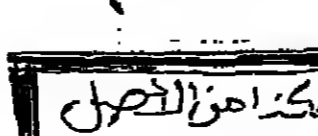
Even that would be too much for Cherwell Valley Parishes, a coalition of 20 villages set up to oppose the scheme. Its secretary is Ian Lough-

Scott, who works as a surveyor at Oxford University and has lived in Upper Heyford all his life. "A village of 300 to 500 houses is the maximum we would like to see," he said. "What is being proposed amounts to a small town. The brownfield site argument is being used to justify a development that would never normally stand a chance of getting planning permission."

The council is committed to building 47,000 new houses over the period 1991-2011 and is still looking for sites for 12,000 of them. If Upper Heyford is ruled out, they would have to be built in existing towns or on greenfield sites.



Lough-Scott opposed "brownfield" argument



# Bad-tempered and extravagant? Blame it on the genes

SCIENTISTS have identified the gene that makes some people extrovert and eager for new experiences and others stolid and introverted. This is the first wholly convincing evidence linking a normal personality trait to the specific gene responsible.

The evidence is the more convincing because it comes from two groups, working independently and using different methods. The success opens up a whole new field of psychogenetics and may make it possible to understand much of individual psychology on the basis of genetic inheritance.

The two groups, in Israel and the United States, found that the trait known as "novelty seeking" is linked with a gene responsible for making the receptor for the

Next time you are heavily overdrawn, blame your parents. Two groups of scientists have now linked personality traits such as extravagance to a "novelty seeking" gene, Nigel Hawkes reports

brain chemical dopamine, which is known to be involved in controlling the emotions.

That some aspects of personality run in families has not been in doubt, as children often share many of their parents' traits. But the extent to which this is the result of the genes, or of upbringing, is open to argument. Studies on identical twins show that temperament, in particular, tends to be about half determined by genes, and half by experience. The

Israeli team, led by Dr Richard Ebstein of the Herzog Memorial Hospital in Jerusalem, set out to investigate one temperamental trait, that of novelty seeking. Those who score high on this trait tend to be impulsive, exploratory, fickle, excitable, quick-tempered and extravagant. Those who score low are reflective, rigid, loyal, stoic, slow-tempered and frugal.

In a sample of 124 unrelated Israeli volunteers, they studied both test scores and genes. They

report in *Nature Genetics* that those who scored higher in the tests are more likely to possess a particular sequence of DNA base pairs — the letters that spell out the genetic code — right next to the gene responsible for making the dopamine receptor.

The differences do not lie in the gene itself, but in the region of DNA next to it. Receptors are the "sockets" on the surface of brain cells into which the chemical messengers — in this case dopamine — fit. The supposition is that the region of DNA that differs is the part that determines the strength of the binding between the messenger and its receptor.

This is apparently determined by the number of times a short section of DNA lying on the end

of the gene is repeated. Those with a large number of repeats are more likely to be novelty-seekers than those with a small number of repeats.

The finding is confirmed in the same issue of the journal by another team, led by Dr Dean Hamer of the US National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Dr Hamer is the scientist who has previously claimed to have identified a genetic difference between homosexuals and heterosexuals, a claim that is yet to be independently confirmed.

The US team used a different personality test and measured the length of the DNA repeat sequences in 315 people. They found that about two thirds of their

sample had between two and five of the repeated regions, while a third had six to eight. These differences correlated with differences in personality scores.

The result on its own is certainly not the key to personality. Dr Hamer estimates that the genetic differences identified account for only perhaps a tenth of the inheritability of the trait — in other words, there must also be other genes involved. This is no surprise, as it has always been assumed that complex traits will be determined by several, or perhaps many, genes.

But he adds: "A similar approach might be useful for detecting genes that identify abnormal psychological processes and health risk-related behaviours

such as tobacco smoking and excess alcohol consumption."

The Israeli team reaches similar conclusions. The agreement between their results and those of the Americans is particularly impressive, they say, because the projects involved slightly different tests, a different ethnic group, and the US team showed an association within members of a family as well as between unrelated individuals.

"Given the significant heritability of many human behaviours and the rapid progress of the human genome project, it is likely that additional genes that influence normal and abnormal psychological characteristics will be found in the future," they conclude.

## Daughter failed to arrive on flight

# Father of missing solicitor to scour 'hippy' islands

BY CAROL MIDGLEY

THE parents of a young British solicitor missing in Thailand will today scour a remote "hippy" island in the hunt for their daughter. Stuart and Jackie Masheder flew out to the Far East after Jo, 23, failed to return home for Christmas, and said they planned to travel to the islands of Ko Phangan and Ko Samui, about 335 miles south of Bangkok, and her favourite destination for New Age travellers.

Mr Masheder, a business manager with a large chemicals company, said he had no leads to work on and was relying on hunches.

Miss Masheder had been due to fly home on December 22 to celebrate Christmas at the family home at Wincle, Cheshire, before starting a job with a firm of solicitors in London. Her parents last spoke to her by telephone from Chang Mai on December 7. On December 8 Miss Masheder sent a postcard from Bangkok to a friend, but there the trail went cold.

Mr Masheder, 49, has employed local private detectives and placed newspaper and radio advertisements appealing for information about his daughter. As she wanted to tour the islands in the south of Thailand before returning home, Mr and Mrs Masheder are concentrating on that area.

Speaking from his hotel on Ko Samui, Mr Masheder said Christmas had been "hellish" for the family. "I thought she might have had problems travelling around but I became really worried when she missed the plane," he said.



her way to Bangkok on December 8, or after that travelling south to get in touch. We know there were South Africans with her but there may have been British people too."

Miss Masheder, a law graduate from York University, was on the final leg of a solo three-month round-the-world trip when she disappeared. Her travels had already taken her to Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. Cheshire police are liaising with Interpol in the search for her.

Wendy Millard, Miss Masheder's aunt, said: "We are all sick with worry. Jo has kept in touch with us all the time she's been away, either by telephone or postcard. Her parents flew out to Thailand to look for her because they couldn't sit at home waiting for news. She's such a happy, friendly, gregarious person and very, very responsible."

Police in Cheshire said Britons returning from holiday in the Far East may have crucial information about Miss Masheder's whereabouts. Inspector Bob Bates urged them to search their memories to provide even the smallest detail of her movements after December 8.

He said: "We are certain that other backpackers and holidaymakers who are returning home from Thailand will have seen this girl on their travels and could hold vital information about her whereabouts."

"It is so out of character for her to go off without a word and we are extremely concerned for her well-being."

"She had Christmas, her sister Kate's 21st birthday and a new job to look forward to. She is a sensible person and we are a very close family. If it had just been a change of plan she would have done everything to get in touch with us."

He said the family were pinning their hopes on Miss Masheder having been cut off by transport or communications problems. Many islands in the south do not have telephones or newspaper deliveries. He added: "When you get here you certainly understand that some of the more remote parts of the country, which is where backpackers like to go, do suffer from transport problems and communications difficulties."

"Unfortunately the trail has been completely cold so far with no sight, no sound of her. Our emotions are like a seesaw. I have appealed through the local press for anyone who might have been travelling with Jo in the north at the beginning of December, or on



Time and tide: Bob Smith, 72, and Mary Dowson, left, and Eleanor Atkinson, both 81, were among New Year's Day swimmers at Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear. Mr Smith took his first annual dip in 1951 and hasn't missed one since

## Eubank blames weather for blast

BY CAROL MIDGLEY

THE former world boxing champion Chris Eubank said yesterday that he accepted full responsibility for a New Year's Eve fireworks party where two women suffered severe facial burns.

Mr Eubank, 29, who staged the impromptu celebration on Brighton beach for his family and friends, spoke of his regret after being questioned by police and released on bail.

The two victims, aged 29 and 38, were injured when a firework ignited others and exploded into the crowd. The explosion is said to have rattled windows in restaurants on the seafront.

Both women were being treated at the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, for serious burns to the face, neck, hands and chest. It is not yet known whether they will suffer permanent scarring.

Mr Eubank said yesterday: "I thought I was being safe but I reckoned without the weather. After I had ignited one firework the wind blew it into a whole bunch and they went up. I take full responsibility for what happened. After all they were my fireworks."

The former world super-middleweight champion said he had gone to the local police station voluntarily and had been arrested there. No charges were made but he was bailed to return to the police station in five weeks.

Mr Eubank, who lives in nearby Hove, had been entertaining his wife and two children at a hotel in Brighton. "I'm so sorry about this. Everyone was having such a good time," he said.

A Sussex Police spokesman said that the Health and Safety Executive had been called in to investigate the incident.

## Man who took on muggers is shot dead

BY ADRIAN LEE

A PASSER-BY who tried to stop a mugging was shot dead yesterday and two of his friends were injured.

Police were hunting a gang of four or five men who escaped in a car after the killing in the St Paul's area of Bristol.

Detectives said the victim, Evon Berry, from the neighbouring Montpelier area, had been on his way home from a New Year's Eve party when he intervened. Mr Berry, 37, who was married with three daughters, was shot in the head and staggered 50 yards before collapsing outside a taxi office.

One of the two friends, who are brothers, was shot in the side and the other was pistol-whipped. They were under guard in a Bristol hospital last night. The shot man, aged 36,



Berry was returning from party with friends

was said to be "serious but stable". The other suffered a head injury that was not serious. A witness said Mr Berry pleaded for his life with his hands in the air before being shot at close range. The gunman suddenly turned on

the three men and fired two shots into the ground before threatening them.

The witness, who asked not to be named, said: "They backed off as soon as they saw the gun. But this guy was berserk. He fired two shots at Evon's feet and smashed the other guy in the face."

"He then turned and fired at the other two as they continued to back off. Evon just said 'Peace, peace', before he was shot."

The mugging target, a man in his 30s from the Southampton area, was not seriously wounded and was able to give detectives information about his attackers.

The shooting happened at about 7 am as Mr Berry returned from supervising a party at the Malcolm X community centre, where he was caretaker. Mr Berry, a popular figure who was nicknamed

"Banga", saw a man being pistol whipped. The victim was surrounded by a group of four men. Mr Berry and his friends asked what was going on and were told to "mind their own business".

As he and the others continued to protest they were threatened and gunshots were fired. As they moved backwards, their hands in the air, a man ran forward and more shots rang out, police said.

Mr Berry's widow, Linda, said: "He was a lovely man who was just a big, gentle person who would not hurt anybody. We will all miss him, he was such a good father and a husband."

His sister Jasmine, 26, said: "Everyone in the area liked him. He was a loving family man who cherished his wife and children. Evon enjoyed life to the full. He had a steady job, a beautiful loving family

and many friends. This has shattered the whole community. He has never done anything wrong. He was not into drugs or anything like that," she said.

The St Paul's area is notorious for drug dealing and was the scene of riots in the 1980s. Chief Inspector Piet Bishuevel, of Avon and Somerset Police, said: "The three men were walking home after a night out on New Year's Eve. Unfortunately they became the victims when they tried to intervene in what we believe to be an attempted street robbery."

"At this stage, there is no motive for the shootings. These men may just have been in the wrong place at the wrong time."

It is thought the gang of young men, who fled with only a gold necklace, came from outside the area.

## Bloodhound turns up his nose at new slippers

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A BLOODHOUND walked five miles to fetch his master's discarded old slippers from a rubbish bin, rather than bring a new pair bought as a Christmas gift.

Fetching the old burgundy slippers for Nick Harrison, 47, had been Angus's job since he joined the household more than two years ago. When a new tartan pair took their place, the family knew there might be problems, so the old pair were taken away to be thrown in a bin outside at Mr Harrison's workplace, two-and-a-half miles from home.

Unfortunately, Angus had been taken along for a walk when the dumping took place just after Christmas. When

Mr Harrison took off his shoes in front of the television, Angus ignored the new fur-lined gift bought by the company director's wife Sue, 41, and vanished. He returned an hour later and dropped the old slippers at his master's feet.

Mr Harrison, of Pudsey, near Leeds, said: "He had always brought my slippers without me asking, and I wondered where he had got to. It was amazing. We thought it was hilarious."

The route would have taken Angus over fields, across a by-pass, through a shopping centre and into an industrial estate to reach the yard of Mr Harrison's graphic reproduc-

tion company, and then back again. Because they have had problems in the past with Angus bringing in rubbish from the bin at home, the couple have often thrown things away at Mr Harrison's workplace.

Mrs Harrison, who breeds bloodhounds, said: "The dogs can sniff out a trail that is 12 hours old and Angus is always picking up scents when we take him walking."

"The new slippers had no scent to them, but the pong on the old pair must have been unbelievable to his nose. When he gets his nose down, he is oblivious to anything else until he locates what he's looking for. He has always

brought the slippers to Nick, and even used to sleep on them at night."

"He used to play with them as a puppy so he was quite attached to them."

The couple have three other bloodhounds, Emily, Ruth and Rocky, but only Angus has the habit of bringing back rubbish. "He has brought old clothes, a camera and kitchen gloves out of our bin at home, so Nick started throwing away personal items at work when he could," Mrs Harrison said.

The couple have now decided to keep the old slippers until Angus becomes accustomed to fetching the new tartan pair.



Slipper of the yard: Angus with his quarry

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## Heads concede that women can also run schools

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A 125-YEAR tradition ended yesterday when the Headmasters' Conference changed its name to recognise that schools can also be run by women.

The initials HMC will be retained by the society, set up in 1869 for the heads of a select group of boys-only schools. But the amendment, to the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, reflects a sea-change in independent school education in recent years, which has seen two-thirds of the HMC's 240 schools admit girls.

The renaming was agreed by members with just one dissenting (but anonymous) vote and came as the fourth HMC school headmistress was named. Priscilla Chadwick will become principal of both Berkhamsted School and Berkhamsted School for Girls, which previously had separate head teachers.

The first female HMC head was appointed three

years ago. Gwen Randall took up her post at Framlingham College near Woodbridge in Suffolk in September 1993. She has been followed by Alison Willcocks at Bedales in Petersfield, Hampshire and Helen Williams at the Royal National Institute for the Blind New College, Worcester.

Vivian Anthony, secretary of the HMC, said: "We are likely to find our schools appointing the best person for the job and there are certainly instances where, in a coeducational school, the best person could be a woman."

"The conditions of membership for HMC will remain the same even though the title has changed. We are not trying to snaffle the women from the Girls' Schools Association, it is simply recognising the fact that women are being appointed to coeducational school headships."



Lynette Mathieson, 27, with Georgia, born as midnight struck at Liverpool Women's Hospital. She wins £1,250 from a food firm as the first child of 1996

## Council proposes merger to save education costs

# Community split by plan for first all-age school

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE usually serene community of the Isles of Scilly is in conflict over proposals to merge the two schools on the main island, St Mary's. Councillors have decided that, with an ageing population, there are not enough children to support both a primary and a secondary school. Their solution is to set up the first all-age state school in England.

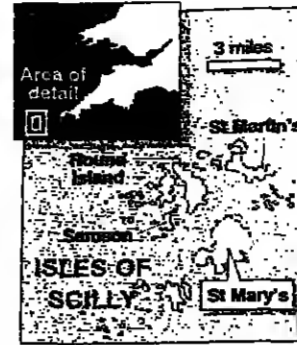
But the plan, which is still to be approved by Gillian Shephard the Education Secretary, has opened deep divisions. One resident in ten has signed a petition opposing the merger, and there have been calls for a public inquiry amid allegations that the decision may have been based on misinformation.

Governors of the secondary school, which topped national examination league tables in 1994, have registered a statutory objection to the merger. The row has been simmering for three months, since Professor Duncan Graham,

former chief executive of the National Curriculum Council, recommended the merger to deal with rising deficits. The education authority called him in to find savings of £87,000 a year as the number of pupils fell. The islands' council is to hold a special meeting this month to reopen the debate.

Although the population of the islands has remained at just over 2,000 throughout the century, many of the new residents are retired. The primary school on St Martin's has only two pupils; that on St Agnes, eight. With 125 pupils, the one secondary school, on St Mary's, is England's smallest comprehensive. Within four years, it will be reduced to fewer than 100 pupils.

Professor Graham estimated that the authority could save £71,000 by merging the Isles of Scilly School with neighbouring Carn Gwaval primary school. But the figures, which were kept secret when councillors debated the



report in September, have been hotly disputed by opponents of the plan.

The secondary school's governors issued their own report last month, arguing that the savings would be "minimal" and the inevitable disruption would damage education. They claimed that councillors had supported the scheme in order to retain control of the schools' management.

A "diary of events" in the governors' report claims that secret talks with the primary school had been taking place

since the start of the year. A governor was said to have been "scorned and humiliated" when he tried to put the case against merger at a public meeting.

Marian Bennett, who resigned as a councillor before the furore broke, said: "There is clear evidence in this peaceful island haven of a breakdown of the democratic process of misinformation and a total failure in the relationship between the local education authority and its schools."

Steve Wan, the council's tourism and development officer, acknowledged that the secondary school governors felt "bushwhacked", but said the scheme was the best financial and educational solution to the islands' problems. "It has developed into a schism between the primary school and the secondary school, which is a great shame."

Mrs Shephard has until the end of the school year to give her decision, but the council hopes she will make an announcement this month.

## British airport chips put French fries to flight

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE myth that airport restaurants and cafés in France serve better food than their British counterparts has been quashed by Egon Ronay.

While the self-appointed guru of culinary endeavours liberally peppers a new report on Heathrow's food outlets with words such as "excellent", "delicious" and "the best", the fare at Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris is "fit only for people who have damaged their palate".

Mr Ronay, it is true, had been paid by BAA, the airports operator, to compare catering standards in four of Europe's busiest airports. But he was accompanied throughout his investigation by two other people, who agreed with his findings.

"We are delighted with the result of the survey," said a BAA spokesman yesterday. "We always knew we had the best food and the widest choice at Heathrow and this has confirmed it." The Ronay results will be made available

to its European rivals, somewhat gleefully, by BAA.

They will show that some of the fare available at Schiphol (Amsterdam) was "not fit for humans" while the catering at Frankfurt was at odds with the Germans' reputation for efficiency. Mr Ronay concluded that many Heathrow caterers make better coffee, better chips and even better croissants than their continental competitors.

Schiphol is anchored at the foot of the Ronay airport league table, getting just one out of ten for the quality of its food. "It is for the food masochist," he says. "It is below criticism."

Charles de Gaulle is just ahead, with two out of ten. "The airport's catering runs completely contrary to the French reputation for food," Mr Ronay said. "I would advise people to eat before they get to the airport."

He gave Frankfurt four out of ten. "All the catering, including the food, exudes inefficiency," Heathrow was awarded six-and-a-half to seven out of ten.

Among the outrages the team's stomachs were subjected to was an "absolutely scandalous" croque monsieur and a "rather laughable" croissant in Paris; a hot dog sausage at Schiphol which tasted "like a piece of leather"; and an "inedible" matjes herring in Frankfurt.

Mr Ronay and his team centred much of their attention on the most commonly bought products with coffee and chips being given marks out of ten. Heathrow came top in both. The most highly rated chips, which were half a mark short of perfection, were at the Heathrow Burger King. The worst, at Charles de Gaulle airport's French Riviera restaurant, received zero.

The best coffee — nine out of ten — was at Heathrow's The Cranary restaurant in Terminal 3. Two outlets in Amsterdam and two in Paris both scored zero.

## Heathrow soars above rivals

HEATHROW is still by far the busiest international airport, latest figures show. In the week of January 15-21, about 625,000 passengers will depart from its terminals on international non-stop flights.

In comparison Frankfurt deals with 396,000 passengers and Hong Kong 388,000.

However, Heathrow has to play second fiddle to the huge American airports when it comes to total passenger numbers. Chicago's O'Hare airport, its figures boosted by hordes of domestic travellers, tops the list with more than 954,000 passengers due to depart between January 15 and 21. Heathrow is fifth in the total list with 720,208 passengers.

## BA cracks secret of the flying toaster

By A STAFF REPORTER

ONE of the last great challenges of flying has been solved at last: how to make fresh toast and cappuccino at 35,000ft.

Until now, thin air has prevented even Italian airlines from persuading coffee to froth at high altitudes, while the fear of fire has meant that toast had to be made on the ground and reheated in the air.

A secret technological breakthrough was launched last year by British Airways on VIP flights for the Queen and John Major. The equipment worked so well that it is being introduced on 90 planes flying long-haul routes.

First Class passengers will have their first taste of the new luxuries this week, before the scheme extends to Club World and World Traveller classes.

Passenger surveys by the airline had discovered that cappuccino coffee and fresh,

hot toast were two of the most wanted items on the airline's flights. The machines were designed by Blackpool engineering company Aerolux, and their secrets are being heavily guarded. All they will disclose is that the toaster has a cut-off device to prevent the toast burning and catching fire.

Each year, BA serves 40 million cups of coffee and 15 million pieces of reheated toast. The figures are expected to rise as the choice is widened.

The airline's manager of aircraft interiors, David Lake, said: "It is incredible that the industry has developed the world's most advanced aircraft, but just could not make a crisp piece of toast and decent Italian coffee on board until now."

"It seems so simple, but there's a feat of electronic engineering behind every cup and every slice."



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# Metvest may be answer to knife attacks

By OUR CRIME CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST 3,000 different types of knives have been used to test new body armour for London police officers. Within the next few months 440 suits of armour will be handed out at police stations in the capital for testing on the streets.

The Metvest is the result of nine months of research by Scotland Yard. To find a new formula for the armour the Yard examined 2,900 knives used in attacks on the London streets over 18 months. The armour is designed to protect against knife thrusts equivalent to a blade travelling at up to 6 metres a second, or 35 kilojoules of kinetic energy. It should also offer protection against handgun ammunition such as 9mm and .357 in bullets. At the same time the armour, which weighs less than two kilos, should be light enough to be worn throughout an eight-hour shift.

The Yard will not discuss the materials used or the possible price per vest but experts say the vests are likely to be based on Kevlar and would cost £200 or more each. The winner of the contract to produce the vests could almost certainly expect worldwide sales.

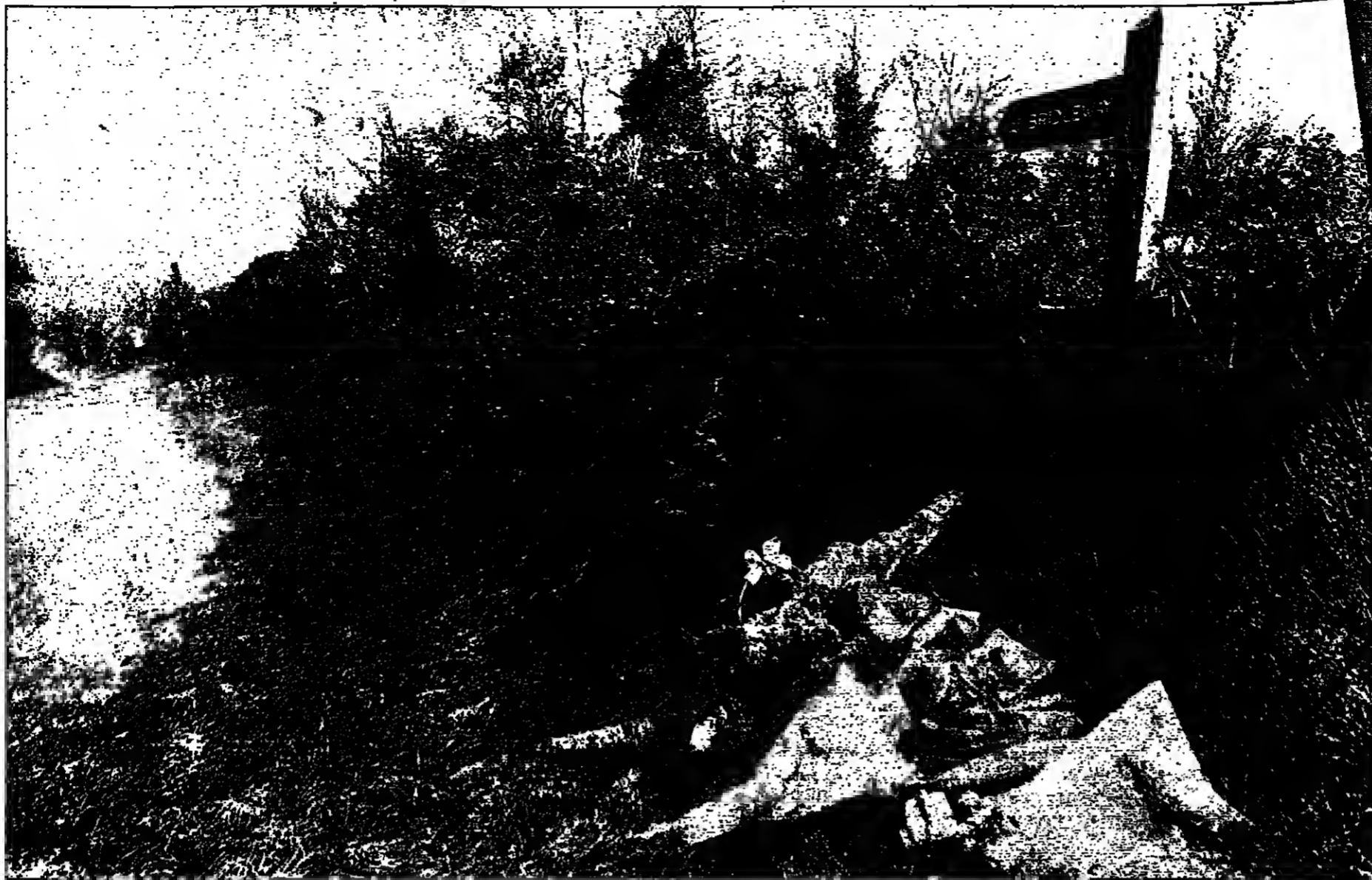
The specification was drawn up after the Yard tested existing armour on the market and found it unsuitable. Body armour was subjected to shots and stab wounds delivered by a special rig.

The Yard has already issued 4,000 sets of body armour for set-piece operations, such as sieges. They are often carried in cars. Another 1,000 sets of covert body armour are held in stock and may be used on dangerous surveillance or CID operations, including raids. The Metvest is intended for everyday use.

Deputy Assistant Larry Roach, heading the project, said: "The Metvest faces its crucial test. We will not ask whether it is wearable but whether police can carry out their full range of operational duties while wearing it covertly."

The search for protection followed a series of knife attacks and murders of officers which left police on the beat angry about the lack of official body armour. Police were particularly unhappy over the death of beat officer PC Patrick Dunne, shot when he went to investigate the murder of a drug dealer in south London. Sir Paul Condon, the commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, was personally told by beat officers about their anxiety.

# Underworld stays silent as detectives piece together victims' last moments



Flowers and a memorial wreath still lie at the scene of the murder. A detective said: "Whatever society thinks of these three characters, they were loved and respected"

# Second killer finished off drug dealers

By STEWART TENDLER

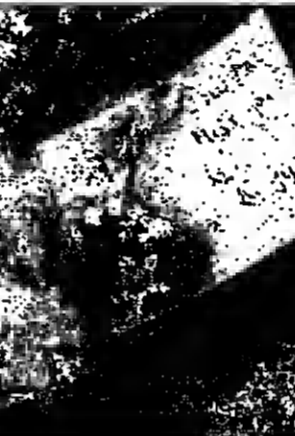
A GUNMAN who killed three drug dealers in Essex used an accomplice to help finish off his victims, police said yesterday. The victims trusted their killer so implicitly that they brought no weapons to a so-called business meeting in a quiet country lane near the village of Rettendon.

Almost four weeks after Tony Tucker, Patrick Tate and Craig Rolfe were found shot dead in their Range Rover, detectives are still facing a wall of silence. The underworld has so far ignored appeals for information and police fear criminals will take the law into their own hands.

Yesterday, at the entrance to the lane where the men died, seven floral displays and a wreath still lay on the ground. One to Tate read: "A wonderful man. Poison did this to you."

It was December 6 when Rolfe, 26, drove his new car to the meeting. Analysis of the scene showed that another vehicle was already parked against the side of the track. The Range Rover drove by and halted at a gate.

As Rolfe halted with his foot on the brake, the gunman



Tate, left, described in one tribute as a wonderful man, was probably the assassins' prime target. Tucker and Rolfe died because they were with him.

moved forward and opened the rear offside door beside Tate. He swung up a shortened, three-shot pump-action 12 bore and shot Rolfe and Tucker once each behind the ear. The last shot hit Tate full in the stomach.

The gunman then reloaded and shot all three again. He reloaded for a second time, and police think he may have handed the gun to a second man. This could have been the man who hired him, or his getaway driver. Whatever the reason, the gunman wanted to make sure someone else was

implicated in the killing. Two shots were fired and one was left in the gun in case the killers were challenged as they fled.

Detective Superintendent Ivan Dibley, leading a 40-strong murder squad, said: "It has got to be someone they trusted implicitly. Revenge is a realistic prospect. There is no way those three would go down there unarmed, unprepared and at ease."

Now there is fear in the underworld. Not only are criminals facing revenge but there is also distrust. Mr

Dibley said: "Whatever society thinks of these three characters, they were loved and respected."

At the same time, other teams of drug dealers and suppliers may try to fill the void created by the deaths. South Essex and the area around Basildon has become the home ground of traffickers stockpiling supplies brought from Holland via Harwich and Dover.

The three men dealt in a range of drugs including cannabis and Ecstasy. Tucker, the 38-year-old business brains of

the three, made enough from his illegitimate and legitimate interests to pay a £165,000 mortgage on a luxury home at the rate of £1,200 a month.

The killers may have been targeting just one of the trio, but may have had to kill them all. Investigators are concentrating on Tate, 37, released from prison five weeks before the shooting. An aggressive former armed robber and body builder who made heavy

use of steroids, a mystery gunman had shot at him outside his home in Basildon while he was out on licence in

1994. Tucker is thought to have known Tate since their boyhood days. He was also keen on body-building and used steroids. He had built up a successful business providing

burly doormen for clubs and public houses from the Basildon area into the edge of the East End of London. In some cases club bouncers have become part of the drug supply system.

Rolfe, a heavy user of cocaine, was the "gopher" for Tucker and would run errands. Unlike the other two, he had no criminal record.

# Remand for shopworker on stabbing charges

A supermarket worker appeared in court yesterday charged with ten attempted murders after shoppers and staff were stabbed in a knife attack. Shahid Iqbal, 22, of Birmingham, is also accused of attempting to cause grievous bodily harm to two police officers.

Mr Iqbal, a shelf-stacker at the Netto store in Bordesley Green, Birmingham, where the attack took place, was remanded in custody for eight days by city magistrates. Five people are recovering in hospital after the attack on Friday.

# Lottery rush

A rush on National Lottery ticket outlets is expected as they reopen today after being closed for New Year's Day. The organiser, Camelot, believes the lottery jackpot, which will be at least £33 million, could reach £40 million this week as the double rollover draw on Saturday boosts sales.

# Rooks survey

The British Trust for Ornithology is planning a survey of the impact on rooks of rural change. It is feared that their food supply could be under pressure because of modern farming methods and the recent hot and dry summers, and their nesting sites from Dutch Elm Disease and urban development.

# Ex-teacher killed

A retired teacher was stabbed to death on his doorstep late on New Year's Eve in Snowdonia. William Hughes, 62, is believed to have opened the door to a caller at his cottage in Tregarth, near Bangor, Gwynedd. A police spokesman said that a local man, aged 26, was helping with their inquiries.

# Famine marked

The Irish Government has approved £1,000 grants to restore 12 graveyards where victims of Ireland's famine are buried. The money is part of a programme to mark five years in the middle of the last century when the potato crop failure caused more than a million deaths and sparked mass emigration.

# Superman hurt

A new-year party-goer dressed as Superman broke his ankle and suffered cuts to his head after jumping 15ft into a frozen canal near Leeds. The man, still wearing his fancy dress costume, was taken to Leeds General Infirmary by firemen from nearby Bramley.

# Army transforms British Tommy into high-tech 'lethality man'

By MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE infantry soldier of the next century will become a high-tech "lethality man", according to a futuristic plan being drawn up by the Ministry of Defence.

By 2010, soldiers could be equipped with a helmet like that of a fighter pilot with a head-up display giving instant information about the battlefield.

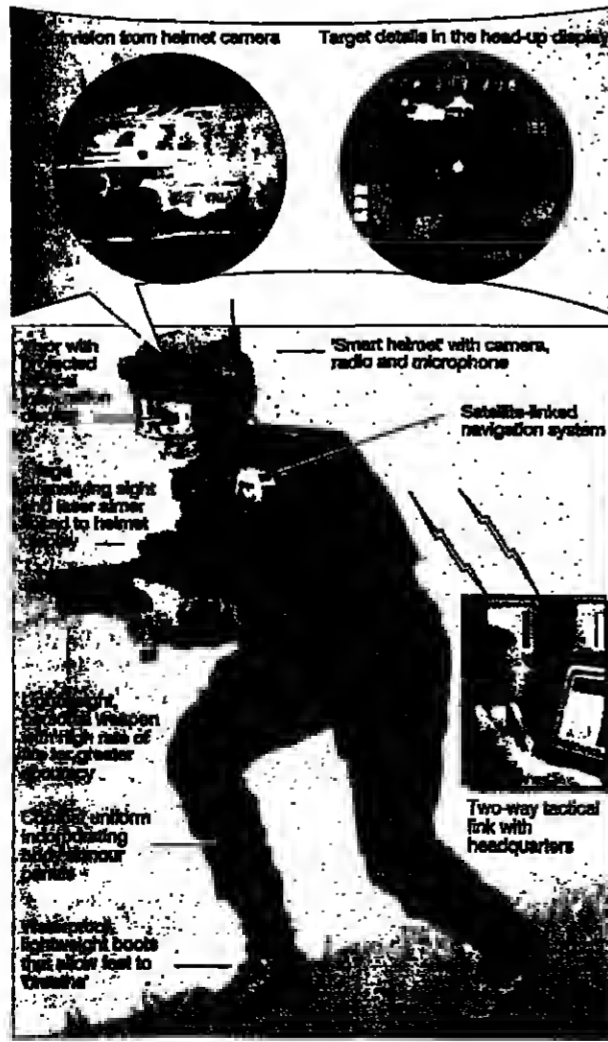
Under a programme called future fighting soldier system, the MoD is researching ways in which the Army can take advantage of the best military technology without requiring the infantryman to have a doctorate in physics or to carry a heavy power pack to keep all the electronic gadgets working over long periods.

The aim of the study, which is being carried out by the MoD's defence research agency, is to ensure that the British soldier is not equipped with the latest technology on a piecemeal basis, but as part of an overall concept.

In the past, new equipment has sometimes been supplied by the Army without proper assessment of how it will fit the soldier's needs in different battle situations. For example, soldiers trying out a new anti-tank gun discovered that they could not look through the eyepiece if they were wearing a respirator.

The early version of the "lethality man" — the description used by the MoD — focuses on the need to develop an integrated fighting system, incorporating new technologies to enhance combat effectiveness in the next century.

The first phase of the research programme is well



under way and envisages a soldier equipped with a helmet-mounted low-light camera, a head-up display behind a protective visor, and a rifle with an image intensifying sight and a laser aimer. The picture in the head-up display will be able to switch between the camera and the weapon sight.

mapping and compass, and the ability to transmit pictures back to headquarters, although not in real time.

Colonel Donald Wilson, who is in charge of the programme as deputy director of the Army's operational requirements, said the timing for the new look soldier involved three phases.

The first will come at the turn of the century when the Army's Bowman digitised combat radio is due to come into service. Five years later the Army is expected to introduce a "revolutionary" combat uniform, called Combat Soldier 2005 — replacing Combat Soldier 95 clothes which were unveiled last month.

Under government policy guidelines, in 2010 the fighting soldier will not be armed with a laser weapon that can kill or blind an enemy. Lasers will be used only in target marking and assessing ranges.

The Army's current SA80 rifle will be improved with thermal imaging sights but the weapon itself is due to remain in service until about 2015, which means that the fully integrated soldier with a new high-tech rifle will not appear until after then.

Colonel Wilson said: "In every other area of operational capability, the Army thinks in terms of manning equipment. But an infantry soldier is the platform for equipment and it's vital he is given systems that suit his needs and abilities."

The new fighting system will be based around five elements — lethality, survivability, communications, mobility and sustainability (providing enough batteries to power the high-tech equipment).

# Exports lift BBC income by £75m

By ALEXANDRA FREAN MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

OVERSEAS sales of the BBC's documentary history series *People's Century*, which chronicles the events of the past 100 years, helped to push the corporation's commercial revenue to a record £75 million in 1995.

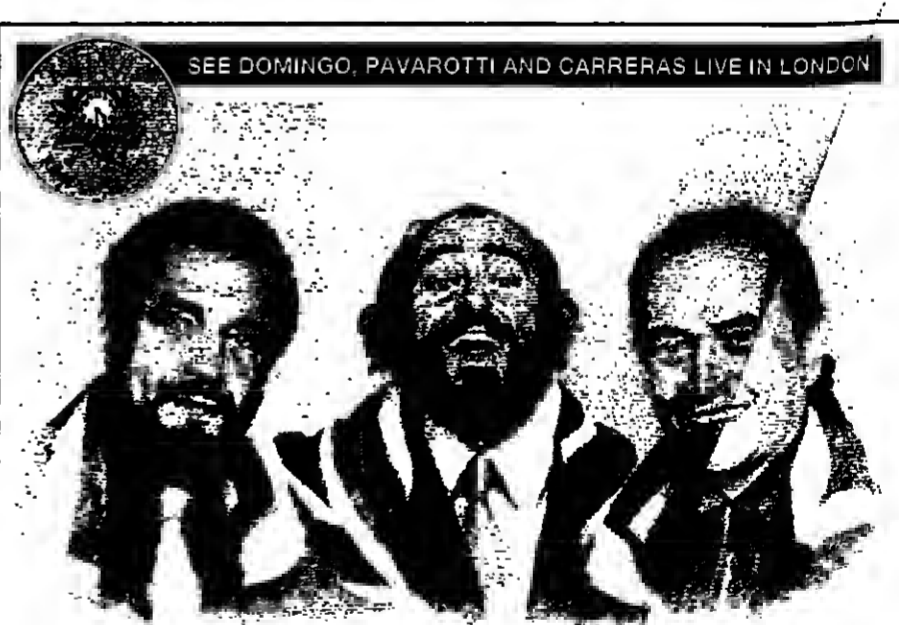
The 26-part series was sold to broadcasters in 14 countries in 1995, earning the BBC £5.6 million — more than half the £10 million production costs and more than any single factual series in its history.

Colin Jarvis, of BBC Worldwide, the corporation's commercial arm, said: "It is very rare to recoup the entire investment in a programme purely from international sales, but if *People's Century* continues at this level, we will get very close."

*People's Century* records the achievements and disasters of the 20th century through the eyes of the ordinary citizens who witnessed them at first hand.

The second best-selling programme was the six-part adaptation of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, which cost around £6 million to produce and achieved sales of £2.5 million in 15 countries. It was followed by *The Buccaneers*, an adaptation of Edith Wharton's unfinished novel, which earned £1.2 million.

Sir David Attenborough's six-part natural history programme, *The Private Life of Plants*, earned £1.1 million and the soap opera *EastEnders* came fifth with sales of £900,000.



# Three tenors concert

Ticket, coach travel, two nights in London from £189

Today *The Times* offers you the chance to go to the concert of the decade at Wembley Stadium on Saturday, July 6, 1996. You leave home on Friday, July 5, returning on Sunday. The concert coach package, from £189, includes a ticket value £35, which you can upgrade if you wish. If you prefer to drive yourself, there is a £20 discount.

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سكس امانت

# Fears over Agnelli's style cast doubt on EU agenda

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AS ITALY took over the European Union presidency from Spain yesterday amid domestic political turmoil, there was uncertainty over whether Susanna Agnelli, the Foreign Minister, would be able to steer the EU through the critical opening stages of revising the Maastricht treaty during the next six months.

Signora Agnelli, sister of Gianni Agnelli, the Fiat magnate, became Foreign Minister a year ago at the age of 73 when Lamberto Dini took over as interim Prime Minister after the collapse of the Centre-Right coalition led by Silvio Berlusconi. At the weekend, however, Signor Dini resigned, and President Scalfaro asked parliament to decide this week whether Italy should hold elections or give Signor Dini a further term as caretaker leader. Signora Agnelli's fate therefore depends on Signor Dini's.

In his new year message, Signor Scalfaro hinted that he was against early elections, saying the interests "both of Italy and foreign countries" required at least six months' notice before a poll was held.

He praised Signor Berlusconi's proposal for a government of national unity to complete Italy's electoral reforms.

However, the leaders of the Centre-Left parties want prior agreement on the reforms, including legislation on the media, which would directly affect Signor Berlusconi's control of Italian television. His opponents on the Centre Left regard his "broad coalition" as a ploy to avoid a trial later this month on bribery charges.



Agnelli: loses patience with red tape and waffle

The colourful personality of Signora Agnelli, who writes an agony aunt column in the magazine Oggi, stems partly from her upbringing in the Agnelli dynasty. Her autobiography, *We Always Wore Soitor Suits*, describes a life of youthful privilege, with champagne for breakfast and wild drives with her brother on the Riviera.

She has remained untouched by Italy's corruption scandals, and, as the only woman in the Dini Cabinet, has acquired a reputation for robust impatience with red tape and waffle. She developed an almost passionate admiration for Douglas Hurd

when he was Foreign Secretary, seeing him as the archetypal Italophile English gentleman.

Some diplomats find her forceful style refreshing, but others are worried by her open dislike of long and "tedious" detailed EU discussions. Spanish officials in particular complain that Signora Agnelli paid only a flying visit to Madrid just before Christmas to "pick up the baton" of the EU presidency. Spain fears that after the achievements of the Madrid summit last month, including agreements on EU enlargement and the single currency timetable, Signor Dini and Signora Agnelli will let the EU agenda slip.

Carlos Westendorp, Spain's new Foreign Minister, said at the weekend that Italy and Spain had a shared interest in ensuring that relations between the "hard core" countries joining a single currency and those left outside it were properly regulated.

"To have a single currency with different conditions would be a catastrophe for us all," Señor Westendorp said.



General de Gaulle broadcasts to occupied France from the BBC World Service studios in London in 1941

## 'Voice of liberty' is silenced by costs and changing tastes

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French language service of the BBC, which sustained France during the darkest hours of the Second World War, was silent yesterday for the first time in more than half a century, a victim of budget cuts and changing tastes.

Established in 1938, French broadcasts by the BBC World Service became *la voix de la liberté* to many in France and a potent symbol of resistance to Nazi occupation.

The decision to scrap the service coincided with new laws limiting the amount of British and American pop music that can be broadcast by French stations.

The BBC played a key role in stiffening French resolve during the war. On June 18, 1940, de Gaulle, speaking from the BBC studios in London, called on the French people to stand firm against the German occupiers, and on the eve of D-Day the service broadcast the famous line by the poet Paul Verlaine, "*Les sanglots longs des violons de l'automne*" ("the long sobs of autumnal violins"), a coded message that liberation was imminent.

However, with French audiences dwindling and widely dispersed, the BBC has ruled that the service is no longer economically viable. The World Service must cut costs by £6 million this year in line with Foreign Office budget restrictions. The BBC "greatly regretted the necessity of this decision", Andrew Taussig,

head of the BBC European Region, said.

French commentators yesterday paid tribute to "*La Beeb*". The day de Gaulle broadcast his message of hope and determination, the BBC "became part of French history", said André Gillois, a wartime broadcaster.

At midnight on Sunday, just as the BBC ceased broadcasting to the French people, a new law came into force requiring French radio stations to ensure that at least 40 per cent of all pop songs broadcast are in French. The law is aimed at nurturing the French pop industry, defending French against English and rolling back what some see as an encroaching tide of Anglo-American culture.

Many music industry analysts admit, however, that there is hardly enough good French pop music to meet the new requirements. "We are going to have to broadcast mediocre stuff," Gérard Louvin, president of the radio station Voltage FM, said.

Others point out that French pop music is less successful than the Anglo-American variety because, for the most part, it is considerably worse. Listeners anxious to escape banal French pop music still have one recourse: as one newspaper noted yesterday: "The French will still be able to hear broadcasts by the Beeb... in English".

Leading article, page 15

## Denmark tries to revive city of culture

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

LAUNCHED with a huge firework display, Copenhagen entered the new year as Europe's 1996 capital of culture and embarked on a campaign to revive the city and make it the hub of a dynamic new region at the mouth of the Baltic.

The 800-year-old Danish capital with its relaxed provincial charm seems affluent to tourists. However, the home of about one million people has in recent decades become more of an administrative centre: new industry has been moving out to the provinces, leaving the central and harbour areas to decay.

An exodus to the suburbs has meant falling population and decreasing tax revenue, pushing the city deep into debt when more money is needed to tackle high levels of crime and drug problems.

The capital of culture project has a one billion kroner (£115 million) budget, with 600 events planned involving more than 50,000 people. About 100 visiting projects will include displays of paintings by Picasso and Rembrandt, an Islamic exhibition, music festivals, ballet, theatre and modern dance. The Royal Danish Ballet will perform a new *Hamlet* rock ballet beside the moat of Elsinore Castle.

## Greeks postpone talks on succession

FROM MALCOLM BRABANT IN ATHENS

GREEKS celebrated the new year yesterday in Athens' Constitution Square, but the spectacular firework display was overshadowed by continuing uncertainty over Andreas Papandreu, the critically ill Prime Minister.

Optimists had expected that the end of the festive period would see George Papandreu's eldest son, as the Education Minister, walking into his father's suite in the Onassis Heart Centre and emerging later with a document announcing the Prime Minister's resignation.

However, nothing is that simple under the Byzantine and, critics say, totalitarian way in which Mr Papandreu, 76, runs his Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok).

Despite claims by some doctors that the Prime Minister will never be fit enough to resume his duties, Pasok's executive bureau, has decided to postpone talks on the succession until January 20.

Miltiades Evert, the leader of the conservative New Democracy, has threatened to call a vote of no confidence against the Government on January 7 unless Pasok begins the process of succession.

In his new year message, President Stephanopoulos sent a clear signal to Pasok to replace Mr Papandreu.

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# Dangers facing Riyadh's rulers lie in the gap between myth and reality

Saudi Arabia is not a country, it is family business. This observation by an Arab friend is as apt today as it was a decade ago, when he had just returned from listening to King Fahd brooding on the threats that surrounded his kingdom.



**Its rulers claim their authority from tradition and critics cast it as medieval, yet Saudi Arabia is a modern creation, writes Fred Halliday**

Perhaps only North Korea has politics as obscure as those of Saudi Arabia. Its rulers claim authority from tradition, and its critics frequently cast it as medieval, yet Saudi Arabia is a modern creation, just seven decades old, a product of the conquests of the Nejd tribal coalition of four-fifths of the Arabian Peninsula in the 1920s, a time before oil gave the region any special importance. Britain was not happy, not least because the Saudi warriors proceeded to annex two-thirds of the British-protected state of Kuwait.

For decades the country was able to use its oil wealth to insulate itself from outside challenges: its neighbours on the peninsula, from Kuwait to Yemen, knew what the sword on the Saudi flag portended, while the Saudi rulers, strong in their verbal support for the Islamic cause in Palestine, were careful to keep out of involvement in the five Arab-Israeli wars. The oil boom of the early 1970s appeared to justify reliance on "oil power", but events after 1973, when the oil price was quadrupled, have shown the limits of such power.

In 1977, Anwar Sadat, the late Egyptian leader, broke Arab ranks and sought a direct peace with Israel. In 1979 the Saudis woke up to find in Iran a new, more militant Islamic rival across the waters of the Gulf. Saudi influence in Washington, the cornerstone of its foreign policy, was weakened in the 1980s and, from 1982, the price of oil began its long decline.

As with the Soviet bureaucracy, there are signs among the Saudi rulers of divided opinion, and the long period of uncertainty associated with Fahd's recent years has compounded these divisions. Crown Prince Abdullah, nominated to rule on an interim basis, is believed to be more nationalist and less pro-American than the "Sudairi Seven", the seven sons of King Ibn Saud's favourite wife Sudairi. He is also known to have good relations with the regime in Syria, and may well feel strengthened by the rift that has opened up between Tehran and Damascus over Israel. But he is unlikely, given the collective pressures to which he, too, is subject, to take bold initiatives. The problem of change is compounded by the variety of opposition opinion within the country. The Shi'as of the Eastern Province appear for the moment to have been won over by concessions from the ruling family. The liberal, somewhat more secular, middle class wants gradual opening up, but not if this means civil war or Islamist rule.

The Islamists appear to want a replacement of the Saudi family as a whole. There is also much sinister rhetoric in their proclamations. The family is not about to go over of operation: the business, however, may be in considerable trouble.

The danger facing Saudi Arabia today is that, with all the differences of time and ideology, it will go the way of its first friend, the Soviet Union. It is not so much external military threat or internal revolt but a combination of sclerosis among the aged men who rule it and the challenges of a new educated middle class that will bring the Saudi story to an end. For all its claims to Islamic rectitude, the state itself is a modern one, financed by oil, armed and guaranteed by America and deploying a contemporary form of religious intolerance to quell opponents.

Yet, while it holds a quarter of the world's oil reserves, it is not a rich, but a middle-income country. Per capita earnings are around £3,900, employment for the educated is becoming increasingly hard to find, and there is widespread resentment about the corruption of the many princes of the royal house. Women may be contained and coerced, but they are as aware as anyone of the gap between Saudi myth and Saudi reality, and between that reality and the outside world. Saudi concern with public opinion is clear from the efforts they put into censorship at home and abroad. With an elite that enjoys its international shopping

□ Fred Halliday is Professor of International Relations at the London School of Economics. He is the author of *Islam and the Myth of Confrontation* to be published on January 16 (L.B. Tauris, £12.95)

# Secretive family holds the key to Arabia's stability

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE House of Saud is the richest, most extensive and most secretive ruling dynasty in the world. On it depends the stability of Arabia and the Gulf, the security of the world's oil reserves and the custody of the two Islamic holy cities that are sacred to more than a billion Muslims all over the world.

The royal descendants of Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud, the puritan warrior from central Arabia who united the peninsula 70 years ago, number in their thousands. All the top jobs in the kingdom are controlled by the ageing sons of the revered monarch, or his grandsons. Although King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz recently announced the appointment of technocrats in the most thorough Government shake-up for 20 years, the levers of power — the army, intelligence services, home and foreign affairs ministries — remain firmly in the family's hands.

Yesterday's announcement is the first clear confirmation that the stroke suffered by King Fahd last month was more extensive and debilitating than previously announced, and that the line of succession has been firmly

## THE HOUSE OF SAUD

established and will not be allowed to become a cause of friction within the family. Although he has laid down his mandate only temporarily and has not abdicated, there is little confidence in Saudi Arabia or Western capitals that he will resume the throne. By tribal tradition, the suc-

cession has, since the death of Ibn Saud, passed from one of his 44 sons to the next, rather than by primogeniture. But a family conclave has to endorse the succession. The first king, Saud, was forced to abdicate after a reign of profligacy; the throne passed in 1964 to the greatest so far of all Saudi

monarchs, King Faisal, who was the man more than any other who brought Saudi Arabia into the modern world and laid the foundations of an oil-financed welfare state.

His two sons, both well educated and articulate, hold key positions in Saudi Arabia today: Prince Saud al-Faisal is the Foreign Minister, and his brother Prince Turki heads the intelligence service. If the succession is ever to skip a generation, Prince Saud is the stronger contender.

After King Faisal's assassination, the throne went to King Khalid. But he was in poor health; King Fahd had held the job of Prime Minister and took over on his brother's death. Two of his younger brothers hold key positions: Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, next in line after Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, is the Defence Minister, and Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz is Governor of Riyadh.

Prince Sultan's two sons also hold key appointments: Prince Khalid bin Sultan is the commander-in-chief of Saudi forces during the Gulf war, and his brother, Prince Bandar, is Saudi Ambassador to Washington.

There has been widespread speculation over rivalries between the princes. It has been suggested that King Fahd has tried to freeze out Prince Abdullah and has more trust in Prince Sultan. But as one member of the family said: "Outsiders forget that this is a family. They meet frequently. They do not suddenly threaten to turn the National Guard on each other."

What unites the entire ruling family is the Wahhabi brand of fundamentalist Islam: King Fahd has claimed himself the "Custodian of the Two Holy Cities" and it is this title that is paramount. Religion is strictly controlled and enforced, with restrictions on Christian wor-





Sarajevo resounds with gunfire and explosions as Bosnia celebrates peace at start of year

Peking calls for new co-operation over Hong Kong

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CHINA'S top official handling Hong Kong affairs hailed 1996 with a call for a new dawn in Sino-British ties in the 18 months before the handover of the territory.

This year would be the most important in the transition to the return of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty on July 1, 1997, Lu Ping, the director of China's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, said.

"I am looking forward to a new dawn appearing in Sino-British co-operation on the issue of Hong Kong," Mr Lu said. He repeated criticism of

Britain for "creating many obstacles to the stable transition of Hong Kong and smooth transfer of power". A visit to Peking next week by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, would see new progress, with the issue of Hong Kong expected to top the agenda, Mr Lu said.

President Jiang Zemin dominated the Chinese front pages on New Year's Day, in a clear reminder that he starts 1996 as the designated successor to Deng Xiaoping.

About 3,000 Chinese climbed a section of the Great

Wall outside Peking as part of a campaign to promote outdoor sports and physical fitness. The organisers, including the Chinese Mountaineering Association, had hoped to attract 10,000 climbers.

In Sarajevo the new year was greeted with heavy bursts of machinegun fire, tracers and explosions, but for the first time since the spring of 1992 the shooting was in joy, not anger.

For several minutes before and after midnight, tracers and flares lit up the sky around the city to mark the start of 1996, but the shooting was aimed harmlessly into the air rather than across the frontlines. Most residents stayed indoors at private parties. Loud music echoed through deserted streets with taxis ferrying people from one celebration to another.

Nato's peacekeeping force, monitoring the recently signed peace agreement, was not pleased by the traditional outpouring of Balkan emberance. A spokesman said that people could be harmed and said he regretted that appeals for restraint had been ignored.

Elsewhere around the world new year celebrations were marred by violence, including deaths by stray bullets and fireworks, and hundreds of accidents.

In the Philippines at least 11 people were killed and 700



Some of the 3,000 Chinese who climbed part of the Great Wall near Peking on New Year's Day in a campaign to promote sport and health

more injured as Filipinos defied a ban on the use of powerful firecrackers and guns to welcome the new year. Police and health officials said that stray bullets killed six people, two died after being hit by firecrackers, and two were stabbed in drinking sprees.

In Manila, nearly 500 people were taken to 41 hospitals with gunshot and stab wounds, burns and blast injuries. Four people were killed

by fireworks and fires in Germany, police said. In the town of Bad Frankenhausen, about 120 miles southwest of Berlin, three people died, including a child of 18 months, when a firework fragment set a flat alight.

Berlin greeted 1996 with a massive firework display at the Brandenburg Gate. Police and firemen spent the rest of the night breaking up brawls and putting out fires. Three

Italians, one a 16-month-old girl, died and 936 people were hurt as Italy saw in the new year with rockets and gunfire. Police in Naples said Nunzia Martino, a toddler, died after she swallowed powder from sweet-sized fireworks left unattended.

Two people were killed in incidents involving firecrackers while celebrating the new year in The Netherlands. Dutch police said the fire-

crackers were illegal imports. A 21-year-old student died when he slipped from the roof of a house in Amsterdam where he had climbed to light a firecracker.

Two revellers froze to death in Moscow early on New Year's Day when they collapsed in icy streets after heavy drinking sessions.

Twelve people were arrested after police were pelted with broken bottles and rocks as

party-goers brought in the new year with renewed violence at Sydney's Bondi Beach, police said.

In New York a record crowd of more than 500,000 cheered the arrival of 1996 in Times Square and millions flocked to shrines and temples in Japan to pray for no repetition of the terrors of 1995 — the Kobe earthquake and Tokyo underground gas attack.

KwaZulu toll rises

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

A FURTHER 20 people have been murdered in KwaZulu/Natal as a year that claimed close to 1,000 victims came to an end. More than 200 have been killed since Christmas.

The latest toll came yesterday despite government pledges to step up security in the most volatile areas. This followed the massacre of 19 people on Christmas Day. They were attacked near the holiday resort of Port Shepstone by an impi of up to 600 supporters of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

In Johannesburg, police fired rubber bullets as new year celebrations turned into chaos. Five people were injured, three critically, as bottles, plant pots and even a settie were hurled from flats.

In a new year message President Mandela referred to the Government's proposals to privatise some state assets, including the national airline and parts of the post office, which threaten to set off intensive industrial unrest and a showdown between the African National Congress and its major alliance partner, the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

South Africa laughs at itself

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

MILLIONS of people across South Africa are being drawn together through laughter, thanks to a new sitcom that pokes fun at the absurdity of racial prejudice.

In less than two months, *Suburban Bliss* has rocketed to the top of the television ratings, stirring passions in bars and on talk shows. The first cross-racial sitcom bravely runs the gamut of racial stereotypes from musical tastes to crime and domestic servants — and after only a handful of episodes the rainbow nation is hooked.

Viewers have been introduced to two families — the white Dwyers and black Moloi — who become neighbours in one of Johannesburg's formerly white suburbs. Fresh out of Soweto, Ike Moloi is the epitome of the upwardly mobile black who



Seputla Sebogdi as Ike, the yuppie from Soweto

has to contend with a precocious wife, Billy and Katie Dwyer, an Afrikaner couple, employ Mr Moloi in their furniture company. Billy's father, Hempiers, an unashamed racist, is horrified by "those people" living so close and loses control when he learns Ike has been given a 20

per cent stake in the business. The hardest-hitting lines are reserved for Hempiers Dwyer and his foil Ma Moloi, the unfappable African grandmother, who trade racial insults over the garden fence. "You bloody racist baboon," she spits when Afrikanerdom's answer to Alf Garnett calls her a "Pondo [tribal name] pygmy".

Gray Hofmeyr, 46, the creator and executive producer, says: "It is a kind of release mechanism to be able to laugh at ourselves. People have never heard this kind of thing on South African television before. After all these years, they are pleased to find it all so funny."

In one episode, the two wives simultaneously decide to employ maids: Kröbe goes out of her way to impress upon her new employee that she is not racist while Ike's materialistic wife, Thando, delights in being called "madam". In the

new year's episode, Hempiers erects 40 yards of razor wire along the garden fence and sits in his yard, rifle across his lap, peering through binoculars for intruders from the Moloi's boisterous party.

Morshahi Tyelele, 27, Thando's real-life alter ego, chuckles when she reflects how the humour gets so close to the bone: she had dreamt of having a white maid during her upbringing in Soweto. "The danger of this country is racial labelling — blacks are called thieves and criminals, whites are racists and so on. The question is how do you break the walls down? I think humour can remove some of the bricks."

Alicia Luvuno, 19, a university student and self-confessed *Bliss* addict, says the show "exposes the way we relate to each other. It makes people talk because they can relate to it. We must get prejudice out of our system."

Nigeria frees aide to Abiola

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

DETAILS are emerging about a secretive American government agency that maintains 1,000 specialists on 24-hour stand-by to respond to the threat of nuclear terrorism.

The Nuclear Emergency Search Team — Nest — keeps its own aircraft at bases outside Las Vegas and Washington DC, and can put a rapid response unit anywhere in the country within four hours.

The plainclothes "swat" teams track down nuclear devices with radiation sensors inside briefcases, and are controlled from a command post inside an ordinary mini-van. The Nest agents are linked to the White House, Pentagon, CIA, FBI and State Department through a communications network known as "Poison Promise".

American nuclear 'swat' team emerges from the shadows

Disposal experts, who train by building and dismantling their own homemade nuclear bombs, can deactivate any device by surrounding them with super-hard "containment foam" and then defusing them.

Now headed by a glamorous blonde named Lisa Gordon-Hagerly, Nest was created inside the US Energy Department in 1975 after terrorists threatened to set off a nuclear device in Boston if they did not receive a \$200,000 (£130,000) ransom.

The agency has been placed on alert 110 times and actually mobilised 30 times, although all the incidents turned out to be hoaxes.

In her first press interview, Ms Gordon-Hagerly recently told *The Washington Times*

that the staff of Nest — most of whom are civilian volunteers from the nuclear power industry — were America's "unsung heroes".

Discussing the threat of a nuclear terrorist attack, Ms Gordon-Hagerly said: "I think more in terms of when, not if. With more radioactive material finding its way onto the open market since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Congress is now considering a sizeable increase in Nest's annual budget of about \$40 million.

If it all sounds like the stuff of Hollywood, it may well soon be so. *The Hollywood Reporter* said last month that a screenplay entitled *First Strike*, about a Nest agent called out of retirement to locate a stolen nuclear missile, had sold for \$200,000.

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Dole takes the lead in race for money

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

NOT one primary vote has yet been cast, but Robert Dole's grip on the Republican presidential nomination is reflected both in the opinion polls and in his seemingly effortless ability to raise money.

New figures show that the Senate majority leader raised \$5.7 million (£3.65 million), more than double the amount collected by his rivals in the final quarter of 1995. Phil Gramm, the Texas senator who has described ready money as "the most reliable friend you can have in American politics", raised \$1.9 million. Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee Governor, received \$1.5 million.

Indeed, the two men considered likely to be Mr Dole's main challengers, raised even less than Pat Buchanan, the conservative commentator who collected \$2.3 million.

No figures have been released for Steve Forbes, the publishing tycoon, since he is financing his own campaign. He is thought to have spent more than \$7 million in the past three months and has jumped into second place in the polls as a result of saturation advertising.

Mr Dole's overflowing war chest gives him a huge advantage in a primary season that is compressed into a mere six weeks by California's unusually early contest. From the moment Iowa holds its caucus and New Hampshire conducts its primary next month, candidates will have no time left for fundraising.

Indonesia hit by earthquake

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

Jakarta: An earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale shook Indonesia's Sulawesi island, destroying wooden houses and triggering tidal waves and aftershocks.

Officials said that the extent of damage along a remote isthmus in central Sulawesi, was unlikely to be known until today because of poor communications. There were no immediate reports of loss of life but at least 21 homes were damaged. (Reuters)

Firing squads kept busy

Peking: Firing squads drawn from the People's Armed Police were busy in the final weeks of 1995 and the situation is unlikely to change (James Pringle writes). About a third of all criminal offences are punishable by death. Observers believe that between 1,400 and 1,500 people a year are executed, and China carries out about 60 per cent of the world's legal executions.

No sex please we're Kenyan

Nairobi: President Moi of Kenya banned a family planning book published by the Girl Guides Association of America as immoral and promoting promiscuity because it talks about sex, the *Daily Nation* reported. He issued a warning about the dangers of over-population. (Reuters)

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THE TIMES ARTS



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FILM
Actor Morgan Freeman would rather be a screen villain than just another Hollywood hero

LONDON
THE DUCHESS OF MALFI Opening night for Anastasia Hill...

TODAY'S CHOICE
A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

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Opening night for The Duchess of Malfi in the West End...

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THE SWAN PRINCESS (U)
Ward's theatrical wedding of Prince Derek and Princess Odette...

Film star Morgan Freeman tells James Cameron-Wilson why being good is a drag Looking for Mr Badguy

AGAIN the pendulum has swung too far. Morgan Freeman, Hollywood's premier Afro-American character actor...



Morgan Freeman, whose latest film, the American hit Seven, opens in Britain on Friday

everyone else - that I would get the Oscar for Driving Miss Daisy," he says. "But it didn't happen, and my feeling afterwards was that I wasn't supposed to get it..."

Acting is not creative at all. Writing is, but I create nothing. The idea of 'best' has absolutely no basis in reality, he says. "It may be a slap on the back from your peers, but if you're going to give a slap on the back just give it. Otherwise it's so arbitrary..."

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HOCKEY 21

Best of British with an Olympic score to settle



LAW 29, 30

Patrick Stevens takes a satirical look at the legal year



SMALL BUSINESS 32

Sailing to success on a wave of naivety

TELEVISION AND RADIO Pages 34, 35

THE TIMES

TUESDAY JANUARY 2 1996

Striker inspires thrilling comeback against former club at Anfield

Collymore returns Forest fire

Liverpool 4 Nottingham Forest 2

THE new year was one day old when the FA Carling Premiership staged a match which, in terms of intensity and excitement, may not be bettered in 1996.



Collymore, right, runs at the Forest defence as Haaland moves in to challenge during Liverpool's victory yesterday. Photograph: Clive Brunskill

Table with columns: Team, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists various football clubs and their statistics.

be aware that the red-shirted pursuers of Newcastle United are not housed exclusively at Old Trafford.

collymore, right, runs at the Forest defence as Haaland moves in to challenge during Liverpool's victory yesterday.

Fowler had his twentieth of the season and his seventh in four games. From the same source, Collymore's cross, this time deflected, being met with a firmer nod of the head.

Cooper's 87th-minute own goal, when he sliced Collymore's cross in at the near post, was symptomatic of the paranoia that Forest now feel whenever Collymore had possession.

Malcolm and Fraser recalled by England

FROM ALAN LEE CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN CAPE TOWN

THE shadow-boxing is over. England, having failed to master South Africa by stealth and patience, will attempt to snatch the series at the last through a more forthright method.

Four quick bowlers and one spinner is the intended attack and the slow bowler is not likely to be Richard Illingworth, but Mike Watkinson.

proved insufficient to retain his place. Having arrived here less than a fortnight ago, Gallian will also return home after the match, along with the injured Crawley and Mark Ilett.

This has been an unsatisfactory series but if it must be decided in one game, there could be no finer setting than Newlands and no better atmosphere than that promised by daily capacity crowds containing, at a rough count, as many visiting supporters as descended on Barbados two winters ago and turned it into a triumphant little England.



Malcolm looks forward to resuming his Test career during practice at Newlands yesterday

by pink faces, straw hats and the presence as courier of at least one former player. There are probably enough present to put out two additional England sides but it is certain that none ever played for the purse that is on offer today.

South Africa are playing for a bonus of almost £100,000, while if England win the match, and thereby the series, they will earn £80,000, most of it through an incentive payment offered by Teteley Bitter.

to justify it. In this situation, we have to back our batsmen. Inevitably, the dependence on Michael Atherton anchoring the innings will be greater than ever.

Wright gives Robson much to think about

Middlesbrough 0 Aston Villa 2

AT a time of year when most people at least try to look to the future with hope in their hearts, Bryan Robson must wish he could turn Middlesbrough's clock back.

These days, Little's influence is improving some of his player's international prospects. Alan Wright is being talked about as England's prospective left back for the European championship this year.

Twenty-one minutes had elapsed when, at the conclusion of a Villa counter-attack, Charles crossed and Wright volleyed beyond Walsh from the edge of the penalty area.

their personal maximums for several months, several players appear to have regressed over Christmas. Middlesbrough have now lost their last three league fixtures, shipping seven goals and scoring none in the process.

Without Barry, even Juninho, playing much too deep for his or Middlesbrough's benefit, was eclipsed by some superior technique, most frequently exhibited by Draper, Yorke and Johnson.

There was nothing pure about Pollock's appalling two-footed second-half tackle on Milosevic. How the referee failed at least to book him was a mystery.

Help save a life this Winter... with this FREE birdtable! Join the RSPB today! Yes - I want to join the RSPB. Includes a form with checkboxes for membership options and contact information.

Badger advertisement on the left margin, featuring a badger and promotional text.

Edwards inspires victory to make Leeds's pursuit an impossible dream

Dominant Wigan carry off trophy in all but name

Warrington ..... 12
Wigan ..... 41

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IT IS only right that a championship trophy that Wigan have now won on 17 occasions since it was first awarded to Broughton Rangers in 1902 should reside permanently at Central Park, a potent symbol of the sport's most successful club in a worthy and predictable conclusion in a first century of rugby league.

Onth successive Stones Championship - Leeds's interest is merely national at this stage - Edwards waved away calls to take him off. Not on a day he was appointed OBE. In a typical riposte to pinpoint kicks, he levered open a hapless Warrington defence for Va'auga Tuigamala to plunder his second and third tries.

TABLE
Wigan 15 15 0 2 708 254 30
Leeds 18 13 0 5 504 345 26
St Helens 17 10 0 5 506 444 20
Hull FC 16 10 0 6 374 387 20
Sheffield 17 9 0 6 423 456 18
Warrington 16 7 0 9 380 286 14
Bradford 16 7 0 9 350 289 14
London W 17 7 0 10 384 455 14
London E 17 7 0 10 340 470 14
Oldham 15 4 0 11 288 456 8
Workington 16 2 0 14 245 550 4

With ten minutes remaining of a game at Wilderspool yesterday that Wigan had comfortably wrapped up, along with an unofficial sev-

1983 by Wigan, at midnight on his seventeenth birthday. Now 29, there is still no more shrewd or skilled an orchestrator.

For all that Mike Ford, an old adversary and former team-mate, battled manfully for Warrington in a muddy and occasionally bloody confrontation, Edwards was exquisite in the second half, even poaching a try and squeezing over a dropped goal.

Receipt by Edwards of an unprecedented eighth championship-winner's medal, Wigan's £75,000 cheque and custody of the trophy will come later. White Leeds can boast a minute change, the adornment of cherry-and-white ribbons must stay in their wrapping.



The Warrington defence is stretched to the limit as Terry O'Connor tries to burst through

ability, for all Wigan's greatness, makes for a tired script. On the domestic front, there are genuinely exciting developments at Warrington, Bradford and St Helens, which bode well. The threat to Wigan's dominance is still some way off, but seems to be gathering strength.

Warrington lost the plot completely once Tuigamala crashed past Barrow from a well-drilled scrum move. Warrington, with thoughts drifting to their Regal Trophy semi-final at St Helens on Thursday, raised the white flag as Smyth, Robinson and Edwards raced clear for touchdowns in the space of eight minutes. Barrow replied with one before Edwards's

boot and Tuigamala's irrefragable finishing for his first hat-trick completed another stylish victory.

Schofield forces delay to title party plans

HOURS after Wigan put the destiny of the Stones Championship beyond reasonable doubt, Leeds made sure of a delay in the official presentation by breaking an eight-year losing sequence at St Helens in a 30-14 victory yesterday (Christopher Irvine writes).

Leeds account with a try. Indeed, the scrum half was the architect of a nervous victory, as Scott Gibbs added to an earlier touchdown by Karl Hammond. Mick Shaw had kept the home side at bay when he followed Craig Innes and Carl Hall over in the second half.

England look to McKinney

MUCH will be expected of Ian McKinney in Copenhagen over the next two nights when the 23-year-old playmaker from Sheffield Sharks makes his debut for England (Nicholas Harling writes).

Nemeth said, "Others have been tried but have failed. Ian could be the answer." Nemeth is not too concerned that the Danes might reinforce their team in one of the games with two Americans, thus rendering it an unofficial international. "I don't object as, the stronger the opposition, the better it is for us," the England coach said.

Beaten 88-70 by England in the European qualifying tournament at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) in Birmingham last May, Denmark should provide satisfac-

Croats too strong for France

CROATIA, the favourites, made short work of beating France in the Hopman Cup tennis tournament in Perth, Australia yesterday. Iva Majoli and Goran Ivanisevic completed straight-sets victories over Catherine Tanvier and Arnaud Boetsch respectively to seal a 2-0 win for their country in the group A round-robin match.

uncharacteristic style with none of his usual big services or aces. Majoli, playing in the cup for the first time, did not have to exert herself against Tanvier. The Frenchwoman, still recovering from surgery on her right knee, hobbled around the court gingerly throughout the 64-minute match and never looked in contention.

Reneberg bounced back in style to beat Wayne Ferreira, the world No 9, 6-2, 6-2 to bring the match level at 1-1 after his partner, Chanda Rubin, had lost 6-2, 6-4 to Amanda Coetzer in her singles match.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for American Football, Athletics, Cycling, Darts, Cricket, and Golf. It lists various sports events, dates, and results.

REAL TENNIS

LEAMINGTON: Fathers and sons championship. Final, P and B. Match by 5 and 2 P. Stand-off.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Championship
42 Castleford: Tries: Shawman 2. Goals: Crockett 3. Sheffield Times: Gales, Haywood, McLean, Sedgwick 2. Scott: Gyles 5. Ait 3-2-2.

18 Halifax: 20 St Helens: Tries: Owen, Hammond. Goals: Crockett 3. Leeds: Tries: Ikin, Innes, Schofield, Shaw. Goals: Howard 2. Ait 6-8-9.

41 Warrington: Tries: Barrow, Foster. Goals: Crockett 3. Wigan: Tries: Edwards, Robinson, Simon. Goals: Smith 12-3-3. Tuigamala 3. Goals: Hall, Pat 5. Dropped goal: Edwards. Ait 5-2-3.

22 Bradford: Tries: O'Brien, Loughlin. Goals: Crockett 3. Halifax: Tries: Smith, Woodhouse. Goals: Varga 12. Ait 5-2-2. Played at Huddersfield.

18 Halifax: 22 Bradford: Tries: O'Brien, Loughlin. Goals: Crockett 3. Halifax: Tries: Smith, Woodhouse. Goals: Varga 12. Ait 5-2-2. Played at Huddersfield.

18 Halifax: 22 Bradford: Tries: O'Brien, Loughlin. Goals: Crockett 3. Halifax: Tries: Smith, Woodhouse. Goals: Varga 12. Ait 5-2-2. Played at Huddersfield.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing various sports fixtures for the day, including Football, League of Wales, Essex Senior League, Wiltshire League, and others.

POOLS FORECAST

Table listing forecasts for various sports pools, including Saturday January 6, FA Cup, and other betting pools.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Taylor retains title in close-fought final

PHIL TAYLOR beat Dennis Priestley 6-4 to retain the Vernon Pools world championship at Purfleet, Essex, yesterday. In a match that lasted 2hr 13min, Priestley had 15 maximum 180s against Taylor's ten and also had a better average - of 33.82 points per dart to 32.84. He also had 34 180s during his five matches in the tournament, a new record.

Vatanen stretches lead

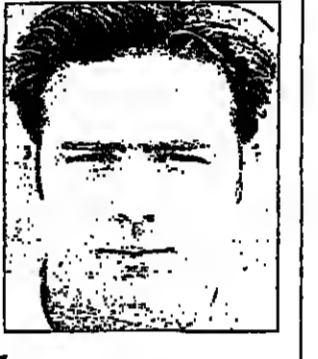
MOTOR RALLYING: Ari Vatanen, of Finland, consolidated his lead after the third stage of the Granada-Dakar rally yesterday. He won the 328km timed section between Oujda and Er Rachidia, Morocco, in his Citroen in 3hr 20min 24sec, almost five minutes clear of Pierre Lartigue, also in a Citroen. That stretched Vatanen's overall lead to 5min 27sec over the second-placed Frenchman.

Humble beginnings

TENNIS: Magnus Larsson, of Sweden, the No 5 seed, gave Sultan Khalifa, 18, a local college student, a lesson in big-time tennis yesterday, overwhelming him 6-0, 6-1 in the first round of the Qatar Open in Doha. Khalifa was awarded a place in the first round after the withdrawal, through injury, of Leander Paes, of India, to become the first man from Qatar to play in an ATP tournament.

Way open for Windows

RACKETS: Matthew Windows, right, the former Foster Cup winner, resumes his rivalry with Alex Smith-Bingham, the Etonian, in the Peel Hunt British under-24 championship, which starts today. Windows, the Gloucestershire cricketer, is seeded to meet Smith-Bingham in the final, although he could face tough opposition from Jonathan Larken and Richard Carter.



Laitinen in the wars

SKI JUMPING: Mika Laitinen, the leading Finnish ski jumper, was in a satisfactory condition yesterday after breaking his left collarbone and seven ribs in a spill in practice at Garmisch-Partenkirchen on Sunday. Laitinen, who leads the World Cup standings after winning five of nine events, was taken to hospital after a bad landing in a practice jump.

Horner claims first

CYCLING: Andrew Horner, 19, of Willingham, Cambridgeshire, was the first winner of the new year yesterday when he recorded the fastest time in the CC Breckland ten-mile event, held on a course that had to be revised at short notice because of roadworks. He beat the former national champion, Martin Pyne, by six seconds with a time of 22min 26sec.

Relative success

REAL TENNIS: Peter and Tom Bromwich won the fathers and sons doubles championship at Leamington with an outstanding performance against Bernard and Paul Holland, dropping only one game against highly-rated opponents. Their overwhelming 6-1 victory puts them among the favourites for the national fathers and sons championship next week.

Advertisement for THE TIMES SNOWLINE, providing contact information for ski and snow sports, including phone numbers and website details.

Advertisement for THE TIMES SPORTS SERVICE, offering racing, cricket, and football reports and scores, with contact information for various sports.

Advertisement for THE TIMES Atlases of the World, listing various atlas titles such as 'The Times Atlas of the World', 'The Times Atlas of World History', and 'The Times Atlas of Archaeology', along with their prices.

Promoting Hick may be key to ending stalemate



Hick: England's most powerful batsman

The fifth and final Test match which starts here today should be being played on one of South Africa's old matting pitches...

was because, when either side lost, it was considered a national disaster. One of the few results between them was to come later on a newly-laid pitch in Karachi...



John Woodcock recalls when South African Tests played on mats produced lively cricket

Cronje's and Michael Atherton's. In the ordinary way, I think, groundsmen are inclined to lay too much stress on producing a pitch to last for five days...

head, travelling at something over 75mph. These are astonishing figures, the like of which can never have been remotely approached...

dispair to say so, but virtually England's only chance of winning is on a helpful pitch, and if they find one of those, four bowlers will be enough...

Until not long ago, Newlands was invariably bracketed with the Adelaide Oval as the loveliest of Test grounds. Now it has been concreted...

Australia saved by Bevan's last-ball boundary

By Our Sports Staff

MICHAEL BEVAN struck a boundary off the final ball of the game to condemn West Indies to a dramatic net-wicket defeat in the World Series Cup match against Australia in Sydney yesterday...

Bevan, who has yet to be dismissed in four World Series innings, struck six boundaries in his 59-ball innings and shared in a vital eighth-wicket partnership of 83 with Paul Reiffel...

West Indies were earlier rescued from 54 for five by an unbeaten innings of 93 in 99 balls from Carl Hooper...

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs/Wickets. Lists players like S.C. Williams, C.J. van der Merwe, P.V. Simmons, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs/Wickets. Lists players like M.J. Slater, S. Waugh, G. McGrath, etc.

South Africans fear opener's return to form Stewart bounces back in the nick of time

FROM SIMON WILDE IN CAPE TOWN

IF ENGLAND'S Test series with South Africa is to be won and not drawn at Newlands this week, it is already clear that it will be fast bowling that decides the matter...

land side has rarely run smoothly. There have been concerns about whether his technique could cope with high-class fast bowling...

scored a Test half-century in 14 innings. "I was not worried at all," he said. "I was still getting to 30 and 40 and there was no real reason why I was not going on from there..."

has as many shots as all of them. The curious thing is that, even though he has not been at his best for over a year, he has performed effectively here against the new ball...

DETAILS

ENGLAND v SOUTH AFRICA AT CAPE TOWN: Tests 15; England won 9; South Africa 2; drawn 4; Records (England first): Highest total: 559-9dec (1938-39), 513-8dec (1930-31). Lowest total: 82 (1889-90), 35 (1908-09). Highest individual innings: 187 J.B. Hobbs (1909-10), 154 A.J. Pevey (1964-65). Best bowling: 5-11 G. Briggs (1888-89), A.E. Hall 7-43 (1922-23).

as a batsman-wicketkeeper; whether he should inherit the captaincy; and, since all these other matters were resolved, whether he should be dropped altogether...

Stewart's footwork has long been the key to his batting. When it is functioning smoothly, as it did in Bridgetown in April 1994, when he took two centuries off West Indies, he looks like Fred Astaire when it is not, he looks more like Fred Flintstone...

South Africans are fearful that Stewart's return to the runs may, with Atherton's almost faultless defence, spell trouble for them in Cape Town. It may well, although as an opening pair they have been surprisingly ineffective...

TEST AVERAGES

Table with 4 columns: England, South Africa, Bowling, Batting. Lists player statistics for both teams.



Stewart takes a breather during net practice before the decisive Test in Cape Town

Slough rue escaping the weather

IT WAS NOT a good weekend for the premier division of ice hockey's British League, with only three of six scheduled games completed...

Garcia's goal to improve on role of gold reserve

Russell Garcia has given up counting his international hockey caps. As a callow, star-struck youth, he used to write the details of each one down in a notebook...

Andrew Longmore on a Great Britain hockey player with a pressing Olympic score to settle

play badly. I just didn't do what I know I can do and they know I can do. I was very safe, no mistakes, but I didn't make things happen...

for Garcia's final flowering. The venue is the Polo Barcelona club, a swish, exclusive club for wealthy Catalans, where Garcia plays and coaches and where, by a strange coincidence, he made his international debut at 17.

Aranza Sánchez Vicario can occasionally be found practising on one of the club's 45 clay courts. Garcia moved from Havana three years ago so that he could devote his life to hockey and, if the only logic to the change was that his surname has distant Spanish origins, the move, say those close to him, has done him good personally and professionally...

Australia call Jones into squad

AUSTRALIA have recalled Dean Jones from the international cricket wilderness by selecting him in a preliminary 18-man squad for the World Cup's next month...



Garcia at training in Portsmouth as the Olympic qualifying tournament looms. Photograph: Julian Herbert

سكنا من الاصل

Wednesday welcome Yugoslavia double act

Present and past champions get new year off to inauspicious start

Bore draw leaves nobody satisfied

Leeds United ..... 0 Blackburn Rovers ..... 0

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

IN THE morning, The Radecky March, that rollicking signature tune of the Habsburg dynasty, rolled once again out of Vienna to usher in the new year. At Elland Road, the conjunction of two fading football empires, empty of ceremony, produced a squawking, atonal mess.



Coleman, left, clears the danger for Blackburn with Yeboah stretching in vain as Leeds put the visitors under pressure at Elland Road

The sight of Bohinen, the Norway international Blackburn bought earlier this season to bring craft to their midfield, smashing the ball 70 yards upfield in the final minute, summarised the shapeless nature of the game. In the second half, nothing worth mentioning happened at all. Nothing. Not a pass, not a shot, not a sausage.

There was the usual talk afterwards about closing the season down for a mid-winter break, as if that was practical. Try telling that to actors who must go on stage eight times a week, no matter how run-down they feel. If they made as many mistakes in a week as the players of Leeds and Blackburn did yesterday in an hour and a half, they might never work again.

rebuild a team he took to the championship have been unimpressive, while Blackburn rely excessively on one man, exceptional though he is. But even Shearer has dismal afternoons. He had three efforts in the first half, none of them particularly serious, and was so deprived of company after he might as well have caught the next bus across the Pennines.

of English football, lasted an hour before Wilkinson brought him off, out of pity, probably. The Swede won't have seen anything quite like this in Italy when he played for Parma. While he was active, Brodin wandered along the left side, behind Yeboah and Deane, to no special effect. He can give the team a lot more than he has revealed so far, but he will not do it for them.

chance when Jobson, shooting from the edge of the area, brought a save from Flowers. Deane, that ordinary centre forward, might have done better with his header when Kelly whipped in a cross from the right. To be really threatening, Leeds need McAllister to sing and yesterday he was tongue-tied.

For Blackburn, Bohinen had a shocker, reluctant to engage in the game in any meaningful way. Batty snarled a bit, earning a booking against his old team, until Holmes replaced him at half-time. Coleman did his bit at the back, where Ray Harford is making a habit of collecting good-ish defenders. Good-ish means not to be capable of something more.

Still, there is always something to savour when a game promises an alliance between Palmer, that prince of central defenders, and Worthington, Wilkinson's faithful retainer. Bear those names in mind when people like Ray Harford argue that games like this are "not fair to the paying public" and then ask this question: whose fault is that?

Newcastle eager to get back on track to title

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

PAVEL SRNICEK, the Czech Republic and Newcastle United goalkeeper, has two big wishes as leaders of the FA Carling Premiership aim to bounce back from their defeat at Old Trafford before Christmas against Arsenal tonight.

We have got to start believing in ourselves," Mark Hateley, the striker, could return to the side after missing the match against United, and Ray Wilkins, the player-manager, might also come into the reckoning after being sidelined by a combination of flu and a nagging back injury.

"I want to keep a clean sheet and hope the team play with a positive attitude." "We have tried to put the United game behind us. We realise that everywhere we go, everyone wants to beat Newcastle. Every game is like a cup-tie. We would like to put it right against Arsenal, although we know it will be difficult. They have a great defensive record away from home."

"Mark did us a favour and came back earlier than he should have done," Wilkins said. "The foot injury is still there and I thought it would give him a rest against United."

Arsenal, still reeling from a 3-1 home defeat against Wimbledon, welcome back their central defenders, Tony Adams, after a stomach upset, and Steve Bould, after suspension.

Chelsea are likely to keep faith in attack with Paul Furlong, who replaced the suspended Mark Hughes against Liverpool on Saturday, as the Welshman is still serving his ban. Andy Dow will continue at left back if Andy Myers has not recovered from a thigh strain.

Keegan will be without three key players, Keith Gillespie, the Northern Ireland winger, has been ruled out by a thigh injury, Philippe Albert, the defender, has suffered a recurrence of a knee injury and John Besefford, the full back, is suspended. Steve Howey, the central defender, is hoping to recover from flu, but Warren Barton, the full back, has been struggling with a hamstring strain.

Paul McStay will lead Celtic into the Old Firm showdown against Rangers, the Scottish League champions, at Parkhead tomorrow with a rallying call to his team-mates that it is their most crucial match of the season.

Queens Park Rangers are also hoping to bounce back from an Old Trafford defeat - with Daniele Didiho desperate to succeed against Chelsea. The emerging striker scored his eighth goal of the season on Saturday and seems certain to start the London derby.

And while McStay, the captain, says Celtic have made giant strides in the past 12 months, he desperately wants a new-year win over their greatest rivals after two defeats and one draw in their three meetings so far this season.

"Chelsea is a big game and they are our arch-enemies, but it means even more to me," he revealed. "I am a Rangers lad, but a lot of my friends are Chelsea fans. I have got to go out and see them after the game. I can't do that if we get beaten."

Walter Smith's side are eight points clear of Celtic after the 7-0 hiding of Hibernian on Saturday, but Tommy Burns and company have two matches in hand.

"It is important to pick ourselves up after a bad Christmas. We didn't play that badly against United, but

McStay said: "I think it is very crucial - and maybe that is an understatement. It's our home game and we want to go and win it. It will be the side who wants to win it more that takes the three points. The two teams are evenly-matched and I think it is all about determination on the day."

Rangers' last new-year derby defeat came in 1988 when two Frank McAvennie goals helped Celtic to a 2-0 win and later the title.

Everton see off Wimbledon rally

Wimbledon ..... 2 Everton ..... 3

By ALYSON RUDD

EVERTON were irresistible - at least for the first half an hour. Had they persevered with their audacious attacking formation, enthusiasm and optimism, the game could have been a classic. Instead, the visitors were relieved to hear the final whistle.

Kanchelskis brought gulps from the Wimbledon defence and Rideout missed several good opportunities. Then, Ferguson scored twice inside a minute.

Everton fail to wipe out the 12-match ban hanging over the recent inmate of Barmine prison, then Wimbledon will, having already missed five games through his suspension, be out of action for a further seven matches.

ball in to the penalty area for Holdsworth to score. Ekoku, played through by Earle, slid the ball under Southall and then ran to retrieve the ball from the back of the net. He felt another goal was possible and so did his team-mates.

First, he collected Jackson's cross with his back to goal, just inside the penalty area, turned and volleyed in his first away goal for the Merseyside club. He then made it 3-0, prodding in Unsworth's cross from the left.

Whatever the rights or wrongs of Ferguson's hero's welcome after his jail sentence, it is remarkable that he has returned to the Premiership unscathed. Wimbledon did not know how to contain him - at times, he seemed the footballing equivalent of John Lomu, powering through challenges as if they had not been made.

The Wimbledon supporters left Selhurst Park disgruntled, not just because of the defeat but because the tackle by Watson on Ekoku in the 66th minute felled the former Norwich City striker when he had beaten the offside trap. Watson, sent off on Saturday, was booked this time.

Royle may have mixed feelings about Ferguson in such good form. If, on January 19, Royle administered that Everton "just stopped passing the ball around in the second half". Perhaps the manager's warning of the anticipated onslaught actually helped to turn the tables. Unfortunately for Wimbledon, they did not turn far enough.

Royle admitted that Everton "just stopped passing the ball around in the second half". Perhaps the manager's warning of the anticipated onslaught actually helped to turn the tables. Unfortunately for Wimbledon, they did not turn far enough.

Royle said he warned his players that Wimbledon would fight back, and fight they did. Fifteen minutes after the interval, Jones interchanged passes with Leonhardsen and lofted the



Ferguson: two goals

Quinn ends unenviable record

Manchester City ..... 2 West Ham United ..... 1

By DAVID MADDOCK

ALAN BALL'S New Year resolution, in his programme notes, was to make Manchester City great again. On this evidence, he should set his sights just a little lower. Avoiding relegation would do.

at 17 years, three days the youngest player ever to appear in the Premiership. He performed competently enough, but the painful truth, not least for those who had to endure this match, was that he was given little to do.

It was between, Dowie had equalised for West Ham when he capitalised on poor marking to convert easily from close range in the 75th minute. It was, though, just about the visiting team's only chance, if you ignore, that is, a Rieper header that was disallowed, rather harshly.

As for West Ham, they are far too close to the danger area to turn in many more performances of this ilk. But they were perhaps haunted by defensive uncertainty brought on by the presence of a first year YTS, barely out of school, in goal.

The manager at least had the satisfaction of seeing one of his side's more depressing statistics disappear. They managed to score more than one goal in an FA Carling Premiership match for the first time this season.

He was beaten twice by Quinn, who troubled his league tally for the season. Apart from fielding feeble efforts that barely deserved to be called shots, Finn was never tested.

The significance of Quinn's contribution was not lost on the striker, given City's precarious position. "It was important because sides had begun to open up a gap, and we have closed that a little," he said.

It was a situation that forced Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, to dispense with the usual seasonal niceties. "It is ridiculous, we have our first choice keeper Miklos suspended, and our second, Sealey out with injury, Finn also has an injury and can't kick so I asked the Premier league for permission to bring in a keeper on loan and they declined - ridiculous," he said.

It gave them victory, another rarity. That is hardly enough to allow those connected with Maine Road to continue their festivities of the night before. However, this was an awful match and City won only because their awfulness wasn't quite as marked as

West Ham's. The London club had an excuse, of sorts, although it would be unkind and a little unfair to call it. In goal they paraded debutant Neil Finn.

It was Quinn who translated minimal possession into victory with a goal in either half. The first, following a deep ball from Brightwell flicked on by Rieper, was a fine finish. The second, after 70 minutes, was rather more scrappy. Quinn trundling home a rebound after a game of pinball in the box.



Quinn: struck twice

YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS

Table containing football results for various leagues including FA Carling Premiership, Endeligh Insurance League, Second division, Third division, Vauxhall Conference, Bell's Scottish League, and Third division. It lists teams, scores, and other match details.



Crockett is inspiration for Colts' play-off win

By Our Sports Staff

ZACK CROCKETT, the stand-in running back, was the surprise package as Indianapolis Colts beat San Diego Chargers...

Results

the crowd at Jack Murphy Stadium with his 66-yard touchdown run with 11min 25sec remaining...



Lane's delight is evident after his lucrative victory in the world championship of golf in Scottsdale, Arizona

Lane reserves his best for last hole

By Our Sports Staff

BARRY LANE enjoyed the biggest payday of his career when he beat David Frost in the final of the Andersen Consulting world championship of golf in Scottsdale, Arizona...

one up. Lane was credited with an eagle three on the 562-yard 9th after Frost had a bogey and conceded a 15-foot putt.

save par on the 29th hole to remain one up. Frost then drew level with a birdie on the 31st hole.

Challenge gets greater as national event goes global

Mel Webb salutes the remarkable success of a three-year-old corporate golf tournament

In the short history of The Times MeeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge, winning the national title has been enough to keep even the most ambitious of golfing businesses happy...

subscription but no less successful, while in Holland the template of the British tournament has been adapted to suit local needs and requirements.



Imagine, then, the response that is likely in the United States, where an agreement has recently been completed to stage its first Corporate Challenge this year.

such diverse business cultures as those in India, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. The one constant is the scoring system — four golfers to form the team, at least one from the host company...

Discovery Channel advertisement for BOYZ TOYZ 9PM TONIGHT AND EVERY WEEKDAY. Includes text: DISCOVERY DATA: MOST EXPENSIVE SUIT: SPACE SHUTTLE CREW: \$3.4 MILLION.

SNOW REPORTS table with columns: Location, Depth (cm), Conditions, Runs to resort, Weather (5pm), Last snow. Lists locations like ANDORRA, AUSTRIA, FRANCE, SWITZERLAND.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE advertisement. Includes text: BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT. Retriever your partner's mistakes is an important part of winning bridge.

KEENE on CHESS advertisement. Includes text: BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT. Hastings results. After four rounds of the Century International tournament...

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES section. Includes text: LEGAL APPOINTMENTS, AMITA AFFILIATES LIMITED, IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, CHANCERY DIVISION.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES section. Includes text: IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, CHANCERY DIVISION, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THE INDEMNITY ACT 1986.

WORD-WEAVING advertisement. Includes text: By Philip Howard. BOBACHEE, DUNNAMANY, GOMPA.

WINNERS advertisement. Includes text: By Raymond Keene. White to move. This position is from the game Speelman vs Sax, Hastings Premier, 1990.





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The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Table listing player names, clubs, and scores for the first set of players (10101 to 12002).

Table listing player names, clubs, and scores for the second set of players (20101 to 30904).

Table listing player names, clubs, and scores for the third set of players (30705 to 32005).

Table listing player names, clubs, and scores for the fourth set of players (30101 to 30704).



Ablett found the cost of the top strikers in ITF prohibitive and thought Mark Bright and Ian Rush were better value

# Seaman saves Ablett

IT WAS way back in the summer when I picked 'The Ninja Warriors'. It was the Friday night before the FA Charity Shield and we were in a hotel. 'The Ninja' is my nickname at Everton - I have not a clue why. You will have to ask Neville Southall about it: one day about three years ago he called me 'The Ninja' and it stuck. They have even put a puppet over my locker.

I was looking at first for a known goalscorer, but then I saw the prices. If you wanted a Shearer, Collymore or Fowler, it was going to cost an arm and a leg and I had decided to spend equal amounts of money throughout the team.

My most expensive buy was David Seaman at £5 million. If the rules had been different I would have gone for the whole of the Arsenal back five - that way you never concede many goals. But the rules say only two from each club and I went for Seaman and so far he has earned me more points than anyone else.

In midfield my two best buys have been David Ginola and Jim Magilton. When Ginola first signed for Newcastle, Keegan said he should carry a government health warning and I thought: 'That will do for me.' He is a great player but has not done quite so well since we have had that little cold spell. Hopefully, he will find a rich vein of form again.

### Gary Ablett, the Everton full back, explains the selection of his ITF side

This time last season Newcastle blew up, but they show no sign of doing that again. They are a great side, they are so difficult to break down. They have got pace all round and when they break they are dangerous every time. They have had a few floppies, but if you can keep winning when you are not playing well, you are not going to be far off winning the title.

As for Jim, I know him from playing in Liverpool reserves: we grew up together. I always knew he was a good player and

he is showing it now. Southampton have not had the best of seasons so far but there are only a few points between the teams in the middle of the table and a couple of good wins could see them climbing up the table.

It does not take much to turn it around. Tottenham are not the best side we have played this season and look where they are. It is always easier looking down on the other clubs than looking up from the bottom.

When it came to picking Joe Royle, I had no qualms there. You just have to look at his record since he came to Everton. When he arrived we had taken just eight points from 13 games and then we had two tough matches against Liverpool and Chelsea. We took six out of six points.

I think it was a shame for Mike Walker that Joe Royle inherited the same players and seemed to get more out of them. I am not sure quite why it happens, but sometimes, when a new manager comes along, everyone feels they all start off on the same footing.

The old manager has his favourites, perhaps, the same players every week and the rest feel no hope. But a new manager comes along, everyone is a fresh face to him and suddenly everyone is fighting for their place in the team again.

### ABLETT'S SELECTION

Table listing player names, clubs, and values for Ablett's selected team.

Table listing player names, clubs, and values for a second set of players.

Table listing player names, clubs, and scores for the fifth set of players (41405 to 42009).

Table listing player names, clubs, and scores for the sixth set of players (50101 to 50805).

Table listing player names, clubs, and scores for the seventh set of players (50805 to 51904).

Table listing player names, clubs, and scores for the eighth set of players (60101 to 62001).

Wakers slip...  
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lose the...



THE

Leader's margin reduced to three points as nearest rivals enjoy successful week

Kickers' slip-up helps rivals to close the gap

It had to happen, finally. Kevin Kickers, who had looked to have one hand already on the Interactive Team Football (ITF) prize, have finally reached the end of their hot streak. And with Mr B Bear's Teddy Five enjoying a bumper week, the lead in Interactive Team Football is down to just three points.



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



The next week of action will be of particular interest and could see the lead change hands for the first time since the early weeks of the competition. The temporary change in Kevin Kickers' fortunes should certainly encourage everyone not to give up pursuit.

With the usual rash of post-Christmas sales, it seems a suitable time to highlight where bargains can be found in ITF. Here is a list of players whose price-tags when the competition began now look decidedly cheap.

scored in excess of 20 points while costing £1.5 million. Otherwise, in this area at least, you get what you pay for.

If you want to shop around for new talent, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. ITF has a transfer system which allows you to change up to two players each week.

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is

actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership. He would then no longer be eligible for ITF. Any overseas or Endsleigh Insurance League players who move into the Premiership during the season will become available for transfer.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 333 331 line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute cheap rate, 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from the Republic of Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 0631 and you will be charged 58 pence per minute at all times.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category - for example, a full back for a full back - so that the formation of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager is maintained.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 prizes.

With ITF, not only are you pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of The Times, you are also matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have entered sides of their own, and Gary Abent, of Everton, gives his selection on the opposite page. Like him, you may spend £5 million on Alan Shearer - but will he do better than other cheaper alternatives?

All matches in the Premiership and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs count and your players and manager win and lose you points. With the competition now into its full stride, is it time for you to delve into the transfer market?

All queries regarding the transfer system in Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171 757 7016. Inquiries about other aspects of play can be made on 01582 458 122.



Neil Cox, of Middlesbrough, right, has blossomed since his move from Aston Villa and his 23 points rank him among the best full backs in ITF

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-6 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts

Table detailing scoring and deduction points for various player actions like goals, assists, and bookings.

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

\*Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times. Rep. 58p

If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 0631

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which must be tapped in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' five-digit codes.

The line is open from 6pm on Tuesday until 11pm on Saturday; from 6pm on Saturday to 11pm on Sunday and from 6pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the lines will also close at 3pm on the day of the match for matches and re-open the following day at 6pm.

You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category - for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your next transfer would rectify any over-spending) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

Form for making a transfer, including fields for Player out, Club, Player in, and Club.

THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF

IN: There are no transfers into the ITF game this week. OUT: There are no transfers out of the ITF game this week.

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

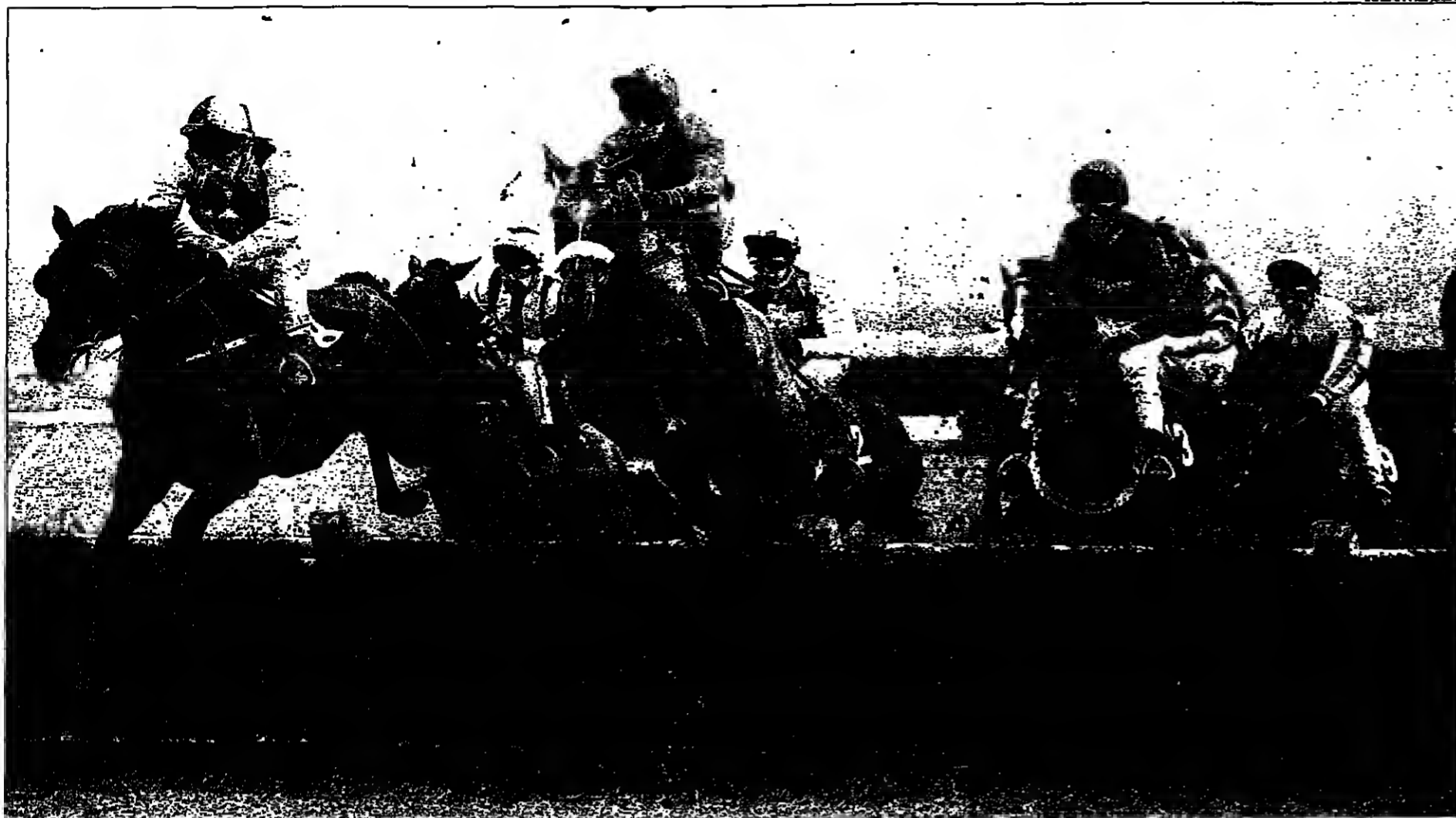
Table listing the top 250 selectors with columns for Rank, Team, Player's name, and Pts.

Advertisement for 'FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING' featuring a calculator and a phone number 0891 774 796.

Continuation of the top 250 selectors table, listing names and points.

Arabic text: 50:000 من المال

Exeter shrouded in fog as racing resumes after ten-day break



The blinkered Lisotho plays a prominent part in Pipe's profitable raid on Exeter yesterday by outstaying his novice hurdle rivals in the testing conditions

Pipe's army marches to 129-1 treble

SWIRLING fog, which verged on the peacemaker at times, could not prevent Exeter relaxing the weather's grip on British racing yesterday - and Martin Pipe took full advantage at his favourite course with a 129-1 treble. David Bridgwater rode all three winners.

After a ten-day freeze-up, which not only halted all racing in Britain but also interrupted the training of many horses, fitness mattered more than ever and Pipe's horses clearly enjoyed an edge as Crossa's Delight, Lisotho and Challenger Du Luc won the first three races in testing conditions - before ever-thickening fog forced the cancellation of the final two races on the card.

everything was a haze, interrupted occasionally and unexpectedly by a brief spell of normality, only for the gloom to descend once again. To give an accurate account of how individual horses ran and jumped would require the powers of Mystic

the Triumph Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival will take comfort from the victory of Lisotho, a former French-trained horse, in the well-contested Thurlstone Hotel One Hundred Juvenile Novices' Hurdle. On his only other British start, at Newbury in November, he was beaten out of sight by Our Kris.

the Sun Alliance but may not stay at this trip. This horse has got some gears," Pipe enthused. As for Feet The Power, Kim Bailey reported: "The trip was too far for him. On fast ground, three miles would be all right but on that going he wants 2 1/2 miles."

Cheltenham off again

THE rescheduled National Hunt meeting at Cheltenham today has again fallen victim to frost. The course failed to survive an afternoon inspection yesterday.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S MEETING AT EXETER

Table with columns for race number, name, and results. Includes races like 1.30 Wordsworth Limited Stakes, 2.00 Shelley Handicap, and 3.00 Coleridge Handicap.

Leaning towards Festival with Pisa expedition

Trainer Charlie Brooks tells why he is treading the same path as Vincent O'Brien

There is nothing new about sending horses to winter in Pisa. Vincent O'Brien, arguably the greatest trainer to study the thoroughbred racehorse, embarked on an historical mission during the winter of 1967-68 to condition Sir Ivor to win the 1968 2,000 Guineas and Derby.



Brooks: Italian venture

The logistics of such a journey in those days cannot have been easy. O'Brien sent out a team of six horses in December 1967 to stay until the end of February 1968. Rossiter, who is now Tommy Stack's head man, recalled: "We took our own oats and feed supplements but used the local hay in Pisa. The majority of the work was steady but we did plenty of half-speed workouts. We did run a few in France on the way home. While they came out of their races well, they all needed the run."

Advertisement for Bloomsbury Classic and Get a Second Book Free. Promotes buying books and receiving a second book free. Lists various titles like 'The Passion of New Eve' and 'The Great Gatsby'.

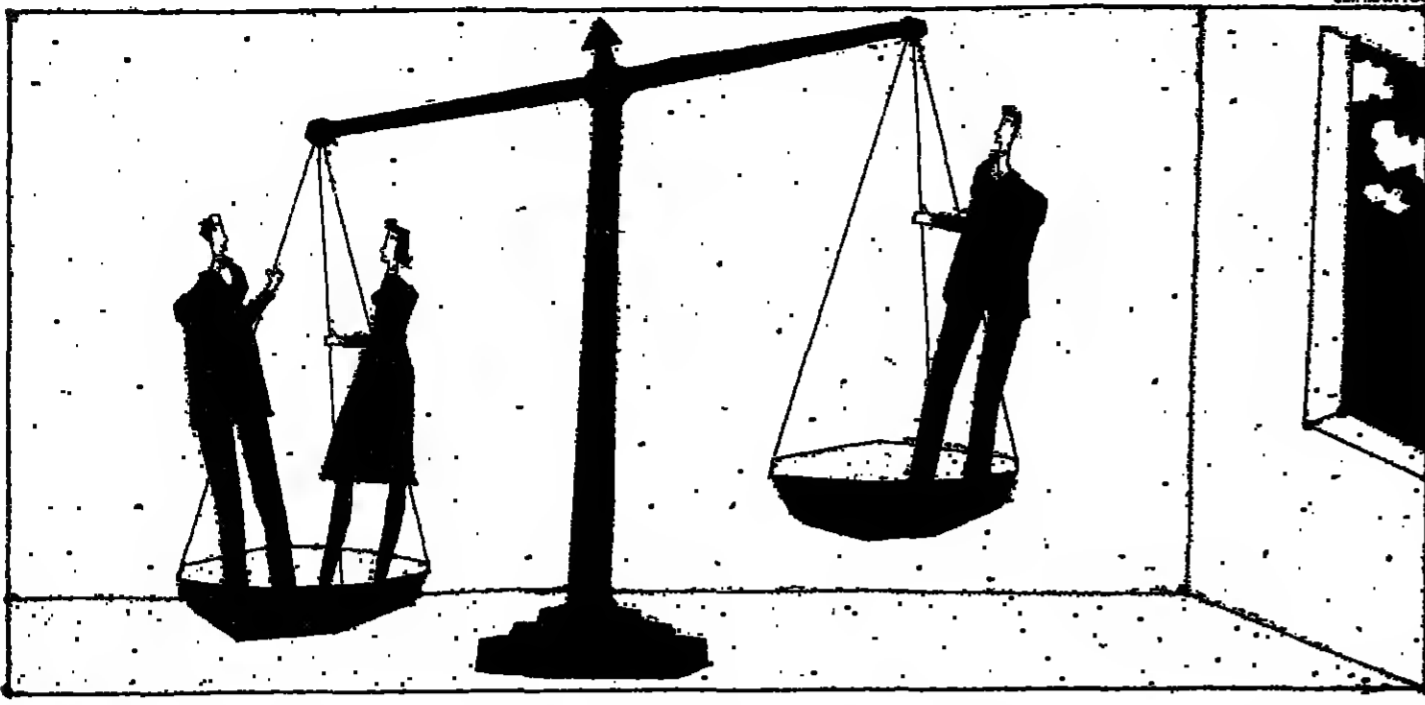
Advertisement for Lingfield Park racing. Includes race results for 1.00 Plain Gaz, 1.30 Wordsworth Limited Stakes, 2.00 Shelley Handicap, and 3.00 Coleridge Handicap. Also features a 'GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD' section.

Advertisement for 2 for 1 books. Promotes buying books and receiving a second book free. Lists various titles like 'The Passion of New Eve' and 'The Great Gatsby'.

Advertisement for Sandown bonus. Promotes a frustrated champion hurdle contender and a sandown bonus. Includes details about the race and the bonus.

Large advertisement for 'unselling' and 'How to sell the French'. Includes a large 'unselling' logo and text about selling French wine.





# Consider your verdict

**W**hat happens when magistrates retire to decide a case? Every magistrate's court has somewhere where pensioned-off JPs browse quietly among dusty papers, but a room in which lay magistrates consider their verdict and/or sentence. (Stipendiary magistrates have their own rooms.) They do this without assistance, although they may ask the clerk to give them advice on the law. Apart from this, the clerk takes no part in the decision-making.

After the defendant has pleaded "Not guilty" and prosecution and defence evidence has been heard, it is neither practicable nor desirable for magistrates to discuss the pros and cons of the evidence in open court. Hence the use of the retiring room, where privacy is ensured. Such is the importance attached to this privacy that every effort is made to ensure that only one bench of magistrates is in the room at any one time: ie, there is never any cross-input between different benches. Even royalty is excluded from the retiring room, as one royal visitor found out when he was politely told during an official visit to a court that he couldn't "listen in" to a bench discussing a case that he had been following in court.

When the three magistrates reach the retiring room, the chairman will, without indicating any

## How do magistrates reach a verdict? Derek Edmunds talks out of court

view on the guilt or innocence of the defendant, ask the least experienced magistrate whether, on the evidence, he or she finds the case "proved" or "not proved"; whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty. After the other magistrate has given his view, the chairman will give his. If the views are unanimous, the magistrates return to the court to announce the verdict. If, however, the three views are not unanimous, a more detailed study of the evidence will be made: all three magistrates discuss the evidence they have heard. If the verdict is still split 2:1 after this discussion, and the chairman considers that further discussion will not change this, that is how it is left.

The magistrates then return to the court, where the chairman announces the verdict. No indication of whether or not the verdict is unanimous is ever given.

If the verdict is "Guilty", then the magistrates will be given details of any previous convictions. The magistrates will, however, ignore "old" convictions and "irrelevant"

convictions. For example, if the defendant has been found guilty of assaulting a police officer, a previous conviction for, say, speeding would be ignored because it is not a "violent" offence.

The Bench may then retire a second time to consider the punishment. The Magistrates' Association issues guidelines giving "entry points" for most offences; for example, custody for assaulting a police officer; a fine for careless driving. This time, therefore, discussion in the retiring room will centre on the appropriateness of the "entry point" punishment, which can be modified for many reasons: eg, first offence/long conviction record or offence committed on impulse/premeditated. As before, the chairman will lead his colleagues through a "structured decision process" which will review the available punishment options.

At the top end of the scale are those sentences that "restrict personal freedom", such as a custodial (prison) sentence or a Community Service Order (CSO), under which

the defendant works for the community. At the bottom end is an absolute discharge, whereby the defendant is free to go. A punishment is necessary. Between the two limits lies a punishment that is appropriate to the offence, which may, of course, be modified by "mitigating circumstances", such as when the defendant has expressed remorse, or has pleaded "Guilty" at the earliest opportunity.

Should a prison sentence or CSO be considered appropriate, the magistrates will almost certainly ask for a pre-sentence report (PSR). If that happens, the case will be adjourned for the probation service to prepare the PSR. When it is received, a final visit to the retiring room will be made to consider its contents and decide the punishment. If requested by them, the same bench of magistrates can deal with this, but the court rota system usually means that a different bench passes sentence.

Hearing the case in open court is only one part of the judicial process: an objective and unbiased discussion of the evidence presented by both sides is essential if a correct verdict is to be reached by magistrates, and a fair punishment imposed. The retiring room enables such a discussion to be carried out by magistrates in complete privacy, with the freedom of expression and independent thought that such privacy brings.

### The JPs will then start a 'structured decision process'

## Is client-chasing for civil cases costing the taxpayer too much?

**M**arty Day's objection to the Lord Chancellor's, Lord Woolf's and the Legal Aid Board's belated attempts to control the expenditure of civil legal aid fees "A Win for the Goliath" *The Times*, December 5, 1995 fits like a glove with his and his firm, Leigh Day & Co's propensity to campaign and litigate, often at the British taxpayers' expense.

That Mr Day and his colleagues feel that their approach is for their clients' and the public good is beyond question. Whether or not they and other plaintiffs' solicitors, some of whom are more robust than Leigh Day & Co in seeking out clients, are blinkered in their clients' and their own professional and financial causes is worthy of debate.

What motivates law firms to seek out personal injury claimants and even, in some cases (but not Leigh Day's), to buy the names of accident victims from middlemen? Is it really irrefutable in an era of Citizens Advice Bureau, neighbourhood law centres and a press keen to expose injustice and to encourage redress, that there is a large group of potential claimants who but for campaigning lawyers would not recognise their right to pursue claims? Can they owe a duty to clients whom they do not yet have? Are they wholly uninfluenced by the business benefits to them of multi-plaintiff litigation funded by the public purse?

This shopping for clients whose causes are often paid for by the British taxpayer is not confined to these shores. Richard Meeran, a partner in Leigh Day & Co, has also complained about his firm's failure to persuade the English courts that it should be permitted, with the benefit of English legal aid, to run an expensive claim against a UK headquartered multinational corporation arising out of an accident suffered by a Scot while resident and working in Namibia.

Leigh Day & Co is not alone in seeking to run claims for foreigners who might nevertheless qualify for legal aid support to pursue cases in the English courts. Freeth Cartwright, one of the leading law firms in transnational litigation in England, tried - in vain - to run several individual claims by New Zealanders on the basis that legal aid for such claims was not available to them in their own country.

Leigh Day & Co, as one of the very best of specialist plaintiffs' law firms, has enjoyed many notable successes, but to claim, as Mr Day does, that the "flooded on all counts" group action, brought on behalf of childhood leukaemia victims around the Sellafield nuclear plant, has been a triumph for British

## Who loses in the legal aid stakes?



Lord Woolf's belated attempt to control costs of civil justice

plaintiffs' solicitors involved. Of them, the board said "there is no incentive on the solicitors to act as a responsible filter for dubious cases, as there is no effective sanction available to the funder, the board, for shoddy work or for bad cases being taken. The board has to rely on the assisted person's legal advisers to act responsibly and competently... clearly, these types of actions are generating lots of weak or hopeless cases." Among the factors which it quoted as tending to cause this were:

- The fact that a number of these claims have been publicly generated, either by solicitor advertising or by the media.
- What can only be described as a "bandwagon" effect: plaintiffs and legal advisers getting carried away by everything surrounding the action and losing sight of the viability of individual cases.

There must be some boundaries to the concept of access to justice. Some controls must be exercised over those whose partisanship might otherwise cause them to over-commit to their own pet causes. The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Woolf, and even the Lord Chancellor's Department are trying their best not to tilt civil legal aid towards or against plaintiffs or defendants. They are undoubtedly fed up with professional litigators writing and acting on their own script and, in some cases, paying only lip service to the Legal Aid Board as funders.

As I can testify from personal experience, no private enterprise, whether the corporate Goliath or an insurance company, or an individual paying for his or her own representation, fails to apply a costs-benefit test before deciding whether to embark on or defend civil litigation. This means that their regular solicitors know that they will not be thanked or retained again if they are less than pragmatic about the merits of this or that case.

In the tranquilliser litigation, I am in a position to know that neither major corporate defendant was taken by surprise about the extent of their exposure to successfully spent defence costs, whereas the £30 million-plus bill now confronting the Legal Aid Board seems not to have been wholly expected.

Beware the special pleadings of those who might have a vested interest in the unlimited funding of litigation.

**DAVID A. MCINTOSH**  
● The author is senior partner of Davies Arnold Cooper, which has acted for defendants in such cases.

### LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

## NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS...

**ASSET FINANCE** To £65,000  
Are you looking for a lead role and real potential partnership? If you are and have between 3-6 years' exp in asset finance then this first rate City practice would like to hear from you. You will work as part of a general banking department and assume responsibility for. Ref: T25268

**CO/CO** Southampton To £Outstanding  
Heavy-weight regional practice seeks company/commercial lawyers with 4-6 years' exp to undertake a varied caseload of corporate transactions, including acquisitions and disposals and joint ventures. With proven marketing skills and a desire to play a lead role in the structure of the department this one is a must. Ref: T21868

**TRADEMARKS** To £45,000  
An unusual opportunity. Premier City practice is now looking to recruit a trademark specialist to join its prestigious department. A real challenge because whoever gets this role will have the opportunity to manage and take a front line position. Ref: T25946

**SENIOR IN-HOUSE** Thames Valley To £Excellent  
Major global engineering group seeks senior lawyer to support the Director of Legal Affairs. Work load will consist of a high volume of merger, acquisition and disposal work. With at least eight years' exp from a major City firm or the manufacturing industry, you will be a pro-active and commercially-minded lawyer seeking a fresh challenge. Ref: T19564

**INSURANCE** To £35,000  
Leading insurance practice now seeking 0-2 years' exp solicitor to deal primarily with policy wording and coverage disputes, product liability and property claims. Litigation experience is essential and candidates must have excellent academic record and strong personality. Ref: T21128

**PROPERTY LITIGATION** According to £Partnership  
Excellent opportunity to join this major regional practice to be based in their Reading office. With between 5-7 years' exp, you will have gained excellent broadly-based property litigation experience to date including landlord and tenant. If you are an ambitious and motivated lawyer, there are definite partnership prospects. Ref: T20714

**SECURITIES** To £65,000  
Major City firm with an excellent reputation in this field seeks high quality securities and non-contentious banking lawyers with between 3-6 years' exp. In addition to mainstream banking experience, you will have gained first-class regulatory exposure. Excellent opportunity to join a major player in the field. Ref: T19879

**PROPERTY** To £42,000  
Outstanding opportunity for a 2-3 year qualified commercial property lawyer with a City or regional firm background to join a leading City firm. The workload will include a broad range of property led transactions and corporate support. Excellent experience and academic ability are absolutely essential. Ref: T13948

**US BANK - SINGAPORE** To £Excellent  
Exceptional opportunity to work in the Singapore office of this leading US based merchant bank. Opportunities for lawyers with at least 4 years' exp either to undertake capital market/general banking work or compliance and private banking matters, working closely with other offices within the region. With relevant experience, strong dynamic and commercial individuals should apply. Ref: T25891

**INSOLVENCY** To £60,000  
Leading City firm, now seeks non-contentious insolvency lawyers with between 2-6 years' experience to join its banking department. Outstanding opportunity for suitably qualified and first rate individuals to work for one of the most enviable client bases in the City and to undertake a diverse and high profile workload. Good prospects in this area are genuinely very good. Ref: T21158

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Rebecca Errington, Jonathan Marsden or Seamus Hour (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0181-800 2188 evenings/weekends) or visit to them at Quarry Douglass Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JL. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. E-mail rebecca@qdrrec.demon.co.uk

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## 1996 LONDON & TOKYO

**CORPORATE PARTNER** £150-225,000  
Highly regarded and profitable medium-sized large City firm seeks additional partner to add gravitas and profile to the Corporate Department. Firm has excellent media and IP related clients offering substantial opportunities to cross-sell as well as strong international associations. New recruit will play a key role in developing the corporate profile and strong practice development skills will be crucial. A following is not essential. Excellent and supportive working environment and remuneration at the top end of City rates. Ref: T4232

**EMPLOYEE BENEFITS** £50-65,000  
Highly reputable City practice with strong reputation in pensions and employment work seeks to fill perceived "gap" in its practice by the recruitment of a senior lawyer with in-depth employee benefits experience as a partner designate to develop the firm's practice in this area. Outstanding quality of current employment and pensions clients provides significant opportunity for cross-selling. Firm has the strongest possible long term commitment to this specialisation. Ref: S1325

**JAPAN** £OPATRIATE  
New opening at medium/large City firm with international office network. Client is raising current head of Tokyo office back to London and is seeking a senior associate or junior partner capable of replacing him. Ideal candidate will have spent a minimum of 2 years working in Tokyo. Practice areas in Tokyo and banking. Candidates sought from both nationally entrepreneurial to see managing and developing this office as an exciting challenge. Ref: S134

**BANKING** £40-60,000  
Relatively recently formed Banking Department at top City practice seeks additional lawyer with 2-6 years' banking experience. Plus of work will include trade finance and syndicated loans, project and some capital markets work in UK and foreign markets. Within the firm's 5 year business plan, significant growth in the Banking Department is one of the key priorities. As a result, prospects in this area are genuinely very good. Ref: S158

**SEC PARTNER DESIGNATE** £CITY  
Medium-sized central London practice with very stable partnership and unusual range of client activity is seeking an SEC specialist to give them high level support in this area. There is already a significant likelihood to undertake the role which has a Brussels office believe that the next 5 years will see major growth in SEC related instructions from existing clients. Ideal candidate will be 4-6 years qualified, trained as a top 10 City firm and have spent at least a year living and working in Brussels. Ref: S668

**UNUSUAL CLIENTS** £CITY  
Applied City firm with household name company client base seeks a flexible, academically bright 2-5 year qualified company/commercial lawyer for a challenging mix of work ranging from litigation to high profile instructional joint ventures often with a media bias. Successful Candidate will be the only assistant at this level in the department and future prospects are, therefore, excellent. Open, friendly working environment. Ref: S669

**PENSIONS 10 YEARS** TO £40,000  
Opportunity for pensions lawyer with minimum of 2 years' experience to join vibrant team at medium-sized City firm. Tailored management structure has ensured good partner to assistant ratio resulting in possibility for individual career progression with informed partner supervision. Ideal job for candidate being understood by current firm or possibly being created as just a member of the corporate support team. Ref: S925

**JUNIOR PROPERTY** £30-36,500  
Well managed, highly regarded property team at medium/large City firm with clients including some of the largest retailers in the UK and tall busy residential sector. A junior lawyer with good property and planning background. Ideal candidate will be 0-2 years qualified, must have a 2:1 and good property training in articles and enjoy the idea of being part of a team which has a very close commercial working relationship with its clients. Ref: S946

For further information in complete confidence on these and the many other vacancies currently registered with us, please contact Miranda Smyth, Andrew Russell or Jonathan Brenner (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-777 0510 (0171-624 8647 evenings/weekends) or visit to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax: 0171-247 5174. E-mail miranda@zmb.co.uk

**ZARAK MACRAE BRENNER**

# ZMB

## THE CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

invites applications for the post of:  
**CROWN COUNSEL**

The Cayman Islands are a British Dependency in the West Indies located 480 miles south of Miami. They have a population of 30,000 and one of the highest living standards in the Caribbean.

Applicants should be barristers or solicitors or possess a Commonwealth attorney qualification and have a minimum of five years practical experience in civil litigation with a commercial bias.

The successful applicant will be a member of the Attorney General's Chambers and will have the conduct of civil litigation involving both Government departments and statutory corporations. Advocacy will be required together with the ability to draft pleadings and prepare written advice.

Salary will be in the range of C\$42,654 to C\$56,924 per annum tax free (C\$1.00 = US\$1.20) plus a 15% supplement paid monthly with salary. Benefits include air passages and medical care. Appointment will be on a two year contract.

Application form, job description and general recruitment information are available from:

The Cayman Islands Government Office, 6 Arlington Street, London SW1A 1RE.  
Telephone: 0171 491 7779  
Deadline for receipt of applications is 23 January.

**SOLICITOR - CITY CENTRAL COMMERCIAL/GEN. PROPERTY**  
Up to 5 years exp for a top City firm. Must have good degree and 2 years exp in commercial/property litigation. Excellent opportunity to join a major player in the field. Ref: T20714

**OFFICE ADMIN JUNIOR CITY SOLS - TO £23.5K**  
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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices and changes for various sectors including Banks, Distributors, Breweries, Building & Construct, Diversified Industrials, Engineering, Vehicles, Food Manufacturers, Healthcare, Household Goods, Insurance, Investment Trusts, Business Services, Engineering, Chemicals, and Water.

Table of stock prices and changes for various sectors including Mining, Leisure & Hotels, Oil & Gas, Other Financial, and British Funds.

Table of stock prices and changes for various sectors including Pharmaceuticals, Spirits, Wines & Ciders, Printing & Paper, Support Services, Property, Telecommunications, Textiles & Apparel, Retailers, Food, Retailers, General, and Water.

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Advertisement for Resolution, featuring a large image of a person's face and the text 'RESOLUTION'.

Late bills law would hurt small companies

By BRIAN COLLETT

A LAW that would allow interest to be charged on bills that are paid late would damage small business, says a new study. Attempts are being made to persuade legislators to give businesses a statutory right to add interest to late payments.

The Forum of Private Business regards slow payment as the biggest obstacle to small business development and has lobbied for a legal right to interest. Ian Peters, head of National Westminster Bank's small business services, is also making the case at the European Commission round table on small enterprises.

The stark contrast is in the findings of a study from the credit management research group of Bradford University's management centre. The study found that credit was part of small business common practice and that the larger companies would benefit most from a statutory right to interest.

Professor Nick Wilson, the study team leader, whose chair at Bradford is sponsored by the Institute of Credit Management, said: "The smaller businesses we looked at were very reliant on their credit. When we asked companies who were paying them late, it was predominantly other small companies."

Large companies, however, have the resources to build late-payment penalties into their systems and would gain from a statutory right. They are also more able to settle their bills on time. "The instrument would not be advantageous to the people who need it most," said Professor Wilson.

He found it worrying that organisations that were working for small enterprises insisted on the legislation. Instead, proper financing was needed, possibly more venture capital, to put business on a surer footing and speed up payment, Professor Wilson said. "The main problem is that smaller businesses are starved of long-term credit. It is not a surprise that they are stuck in a hole."

The Bradford team is conducting another study of credit and small business and is due to report either this month or next.

Beavering away at imports from the dining table

Mary Wilson visits a couple whose lives were transformed by a relative's present

When Sarah Akin-Smith saw the present from her sister — a highly polished cast aluminium beaver — she hardly imagined that a couple of years later she would be selling them in their hundreds to stores such as Harrods, John Lewis and Liberty. She said: "I was so taken by the sculpture that I contacted the Canadian company and offered to become their exclusive UK distributor. James, my husband, had his own business. He helped a bit, but basically I ran the company from our dining room in Fulham, west London, for the first two years. "Life was fairly fraught at the beginning. We originally saw it as a sideline. We had a target to pay the first lot of school fees and get a holiday out of it. We never envisaged that the business would take off as it has."

Most people have to battle to have their products accepted by big stores, but the Akin-Smiths, who live in Dorset, seem to have fallen on their feet. "My first contact with John Lewis was to ring up a buyer, tell her what I had and send a catalogue. She was so excited, she rang back the day she received it and put in an order," she said.

They think they have been so successful because they had never been in retailing and so could offer a fresh, even naive approach. "We just loved the product and I have become friends with all the buyers I deal with," said Mrs Akin-Smith.

A year ago, a friend of a friend, the sales director of a Hong Kong porcelain company, arrived on the doorstep. "I thought it was a social call, but she arrived, armed with photographs of their plates and stayed for an hour and a half. While I looked at the photographs, she changed my baby's nappy."

Mrs Akin-Smith was asked if she could sell them here and a deal was struck. The china is hand-painted with an unusual amount of detail and has ten coats of lacquer giving depth and body to the finish. "I



Sarah and James Akin-Smith, whose range of giftware is now sold in several top London stores

gave her some ideas about designs and we had to Westernise them quite a bit, but they are more efficient than any European company. In all the thousands of plates, we have never had a piece of china broken, they are all packed so well," she added.

Sixty per cent of the turnover of Sarah Akin-Smith — which is also the name of the business — is now the porcelain, the remainder the aluminium ware. The corporate

side is burgeoning, too, with Zurich Insurance and Pinnacle Insurance, for example, ordering items in their thousands for promotions or corporate gifts.

The first year turnover was £3,000, the next £50,000 and this year it will be well into six figures, "and it could easily double or triple, with just a few orders in the pipeline taking off," said Mr Akin-Smith. But for all this, they intend to keep the company small. They

work six days a week and several evenings. A sister-in-law has the space and time to run the storage and distribution of the business in Northamptonshire, and they do the rest. "We still rope in packers from the family. But we do not want to expand and start paying large salaries. The bulk of the business is done by fax and phone, we never leave our mobile behind, even when we take the children for a walk on the beach."

Asian business pressed to get a new image and go for growth

By VIOLET JOHNSTONE

BRITAIN'S Asian business community is being encouraged to go for growth and shed its image of the family-run corner shop. More than 50 per cent of Britain's independent retail outlets are owned by Asians, but research shows many are failing to adopt more profitable trading patterns and to enlarge their business.

Suhail Aziz, managing director of Brettonwood Partnership, a successful Asian-led international management consultancy, says: "We have the inclination, the urge, to run our own business, but we must lift our sights to the mainstream and to the new global opportunities — and Britain must maximise on the potential of its Asian community."

On the initiative of Mr Aziz, a series of symposiums, aimed at small and medium-sized Asian enterprises, are being held around Britain with three main objectives: to increase awareness of practical help available from local agencies, such as training and enterprise councils and government departments; to enable successful Asians to tell their stories and act as role models, and to highlight opportunities in the UK, the single European market and emerging central and East European markets. In 1996, symposiums are to be held in Blackburn, east London, Birmingham, Leicester and Peterborough. The events are partly sponsored by the Government.

While the Asian community is diverse, it has many common traits. These include a capacity for hard work and strong family culture. The latter can bring constraints: a wife or brother or nephew may not be the best person for the job. In research

for the University of Central England, Dr Moulder Ram found that in many cases the harmonious family enterprise was a myth. He says: "Often, autocratic male bosses are evident."

In a study in Birmingham he conducted, only two out of 15 businesses were "break-out contenders" who showed entrepreneurial motivation, had genuine growth aspirations, wanted to upgrade products or develop new ones, paid attention to human resources or were willing to consider relocating.

One of the two exceptions was in engineering, where the owner had worked in a large organisation and knew how to delegate and buy management skills; the other was a business run by two women manufacturing top-quality ethnic foods. Young generation Asians are most likely to break out, but cultural ties remain strong. One researcher said: "Even those who get a business administration master's degree are often sucked back into the old family ways."



"I've already broken my new year's resolution."

More than 60 per cent of small businesses believe Britain's economy is in decline or not recovering, according to the Office for World Quarterly Business Survey. That is double the number a year ago. The survey found that fewer firms were reporting sales increases or creating jobs.

Support for innovative small and medium-sized businesses is one of four priorities to help to reduce unemployment in the European Community set out in the second report of the European

Commission's Competitiveness Advisory Group.

Requests for loans, grants and sources of funds have been among the more common inquiries at Business Link City Partners which covers the City, Hackney and Islington.

Colin Barnett, operations manager at Business Link Gloucester,

is promoted to general manager. He spent 33 years in senior roles in banking and managed operations at the county's enterprise agency before joining Business Link when it was set up 12 months ago. The one-stop shop has received more than 8,000 inquiries this year.

A litigation support panel has been formed by the UK 200 Group of chartered accountants. Lawyers

acting for small businesses in such cases as contract disputes, fraud and personal injury can call in an expert member of the panel for financial opinions. Assessments of business or earnings losses can also be requested.

The chamber of commerce in Kingston upon Thames, southwest London, is offering a free day's business counselling, worth £250,

to members. An extra day's counselling in a subsequent year will be offered at a rate of about £30 plus VAT. The chamber is planning similar services for members on information technology and market research.

Only one in ten women who runs a business works fewer than 50 hours a week, a survey by the Forum of Private Business says. The survey reports that some women put in between 60 and 80 hours, and two thirds work weekends and bank holidays.

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

Advertisement for 'BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES' featuring various services like 'A NEW INVENTION', 'WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?', 'WORK FROM HOME CASH FLOW OPPORTUNITY', and 'START A PROFITABLE IMPORT EXPORT AGENCY'.

Advertisement for 'DISCREET SURVEILLANCE' by LORRAINE ELECTRONICS, offering discreet surveillance services.

Advertisement for 'DETECTIVE' services, offering investigation and detective work.

Advertisement for 'BUSINESS SERVICES' including 'EXECUTIVE SEARCH' and 'FINANCIAL SERVICES'.

Advertisement for 'OFFSHORE COMPANY SPECIALISTS' offering services for offshore companies and financial management.

Advertisement for 'INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION' with an 'Invitation to Tender' for contraceptive manufacturers.

Advertisement for 'WHY ON EARTH DO I WANT TO OWN AN OSTRICH?' featuring ostrich farming opportunities.

Advertisement for 'BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES' featuring 'FREEPHONE 0800 269900' and various business services.

Large advertisement for 'THE TIMES TRAVEL OFFERS' featuring 'ITALIAN CITY BREAKS' and 'A WEEKEND IN FLORENCE' and 'A WEEKEND IN ROME'.

businesses expecting to start new year

its exceed e



Market in gilt-edged repos opens for business

By JANET BUSH ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE new market in gilt-edged repos begins today, with great hopes at the Bank of England of new dynamism in the British government bond market...

ment bond market up to date with other highly successful markets such as the Treasury bond market in America...

overseas investment in government bonds than the British market. The Treasury estimates that it could eventually save £25 million a year in public spending...

other kinds of instruments. As things stand, holders of gilts can lend gilts in return for a fee but, unless they are authorised gilt-edged market-makers...

more flexible instrument for traders in different financial instruments. With a much larger than expected forecast for the public sector borrowing requirement next year...

Businesses expecting bumpy start to new year

By PHILIP PANGALOS AND JANET BUSH

BRITISH businesses remain cautious on prospects and are braced for a bumpy ride as the harsh economic climate continues to restrict profit growth...

A survey by Lloyds Bank says that businesses are finding it difficult to accept and adapt to a low inflation climate, with growth below expectations...

The two-year survey, which polled more than 2,000 businesses in November and December, shows that many were disappointed by slower than expected growth in order books...

it growth in 1995. As a result, business confidence is at its lowest since the Lloyds survey began in 1992.

A confidence index, based on expectations for order books, sales and profitability for the next six months, was eight points lower than six months ago...

The survey showed a growth in order books, with 43 per cent of companies reporting higher orders, compared to 17 per cent reporting lower orders.

However, Mr. Riding added: "While they are still experiencing growth, they are having difficulty in coming to terms with managing a low inflation economy."

Meanwhile, Cambridge Econometrics expects British growth to slow to around 2.5 per cent this year, compared with about 2.7 per cent in 1995...

Cambridge Econometrics assumes that investment will pick up this year on the expectation that projects under the Government's Private Finance Initiative will fill much of the gap left by cuts in public capital spending.



The New York exchange in Wall Street was the only market to outperform UK equities

UK pension funds surge to enjoy a vintage year

By MARTIN BARROW

UK PENSION funds surged ahead in 1995, with annual returns of 19 per cent reflecting strong advances in equities and bonds.

Funds recovered strongly from their poor showing in 1994, according to the preliminary annual survey by the WM Company...

UK equities provided a return of 24 per cent, a figure exceeded only by the United States, where equities recorded returns of 34 per cent.

However, over a five-year period, UK equities, with returns of more than 16 per cent, have been beaten by every leading overseas equity venue.

Property, a star performer in 1994, recorded a disappointing return of 5 per cent. WM said hedging activity also increased in 1995, with managers varying their exposure during the course of the year.

Daiwa Bank plans for US plea bargaining

By OUR CITY STAFF

JAPAN'S scandal-hit Daiwa Bank plans to plea bargain with US federal authorities next month over the 24 counts of fraud filed against it...

The bank hopes to bring the case to a settlement by the end of March, when it does its books for fiscal 1995...

It also quoted a senior official of Sumitomo Bank, another leading Japanese commercial bank, as saying that it planned to start talks with Daiwa in April at the earliest on a possible merger...

In November, the US Federal Reserve expelled Daiwa Bank from the United States for allegedly trying to disguise \$1.1 billion in losses due to fraudulent US Treasury bond trading...

Asahi Shimbun said that Daiwa Bank was expected to plead not guilty to the fraud charges, in its documents to be submitted to US regulators on January 8.

Locker faces fight over Pentre

By MARTIN BARROW

THOMAS Locker Holdings, the engineering company, faces growing opposition to the proposed reverse takeover by Pentre Group.

John Carr, the largest single shareholder in Thomas Locker with almost 23 per cent of the ordinary voting stock, is calling on other investors to vote against the £75 million purchase of privately-owned Pentre...

as Locker is capitalised at £3 million. Pentre, established in 1988, manufactures reels, drums and specialised machinery for the wire and cable industry.

that the deal would link two businesses that do not fit. Mr Carr, who is advised by KPMG Manchester, emerged as Thomas Locker's largest single investor in May after buying shares from three relatives of the founder...

Gilts exceed expectations

Total returns from gilts in calendar 1995 (allowing for inflation) were in the top quartile of those recorded over the past 77 years. This was not the expectation at the start of the year...

It is therefore difficult to account for this performance, looking at the main domestic economic factors. A more convincing explanation lies overseas, for it is in Germany and particularly the US that bond performances have been much better than expected.

The net result has been strong performances from all bond markets, but the spread of UK yields relative to those elsewhere has tended to widen.

deficits of having unfunded pension schemes was well illustrated in an OECD analysis published last summer. The United Kingdom's position is extremely favourable since we have tackled this particular problem by encouraging private-sector pension provisions.

Even though only half the population is covered by these schemes, the projections for future budget deficits in the UK are considerably more favourable than in most other OECD countries.

GILT-EDGED

this relative advantage? The main answer is that it has been preoccupied with concerns about the current budget deficit (especially in the run up to the Budget). This is understandable.

be put into reverse, and the past three budgets have had one thing in common, namely, aiming to restore the underlying budget deficit to a more sustainable position.

However, the projected deficit is still higher than those expected for the US and Germany next year, and still a long way from the norm of the 1950s, when the underlying deficit was in balance.

Expectations of further progress are also influenced by the outcome of the next election. Labour politicians are keen to emphasise their desire to pursue credible fiscal policies, but markets still require a risk premium to reflect their concern.

On both occasions, fiscal policy had to

Indian telecoms setback

INDIA'S efforts to privatise the telephone system suffered another setback yesterday when a second round of tenders to provide basic telecom services were received from private joint-venture firms for only five of the 13 states on offer.

that the deal would link two businesses that do not fit. Mr Carr, who is advised by KPMG Manchester, emerged as Thomas Locker's largest single investor in May after buying shares from three relatives of the founder...

CHANGE ON WEEK THE POUND

US dollar 1.5572 (+0.0157)
German mark 2.2298 (+0.0097)
Exchange index 83.1 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2690.1 (+29.6)
FT-SE 100 2889.3 (+31.0)
New York Dow Jones 5117.12 (+19.15)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 19868.15 (+123.73)

TOURIST RATES

Table with columns for Bank Buys, Bank Sells, and various countries like Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, etc.

Labour puts energy into power reform

Christine Buckley on the opposition party's widest-ranging policy review

Over the next few days, letters from a range of industrialists and academics will begin to drop on the office doormat of Margaret Beckett, Labour's Trade and Industry Secretary.

lucroverns in the utilities were established. While PowerGen and National Power are out of the frame having a dialogue with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission...

Regulation has so far failed the customer on price and other ways

few weeks will start to provide the answers when the regulation review gets fully under way. It is certain, however, that a key figure will be Dr Dieter Helm, the Oxford University energy strategist who provoked the anger of Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, when he declared that regulation was in crisis...

informative: With effect from 2 January 96, the following changes apply. Cheque Rate table, High Interest Savings Account table, TESSA table.





Boxing promoter faces disqualification proceedings after four-year inquiry

# DTI to seek boardroom ban on Warren



Warren: he will contest the action

**By Jon Ashworth**  
THE Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is poised to start disqualification proceedings against Frank Warren, the promoter behind some of the biggest names in professional boxing. The attempt to ban Mr Warren, 43, from serving as a company director, follows similar action against Terry Venables, the England football team coach. Proceedings are due to begin next month.

The move by the DTI follows a four-year investigation, and is linked to the London Arena, the ill-fated Docklands sporting and entertainment venue that collapsed in 1991 with debts of more than £20 million. Mr Warren had a 70 per cent stake in the London Arena, and suffered substantial losses when the receivers went in. The venue reopened in 1994.

Mr Warren faces a ban of between two and 15 years if the DTI action succeeds. A similar threat faces Mr Venables, who was informed by the DTI last month that it intended to start disqualification proceedings against him. Mr Venables denied any wrongdoing, and said he would fight the action.

Government inspectors discovered that six companies connected to Mr Warren received £2 million from Landhurst, including £180,000 to finance a Frank Sinatra concert at the London Arena. The arena also received more than £830,000 in loans from Landhurst.

Warren left school at 15 and worked as a porter in Smithfield Meat Market. He branched into business, renting vending machines to pubs, then fell into boxing after a friend encouraged him to bet on a fight. By the 1980s he was a millionaire.

## Labour may merge watchdogs

**By Christine Buckley**  
LABOUR has launched a sweeping review that could lead to the offices of water, electricity and gas regulation being scrapped and replaced by one regulator, if the party forms the next Government.

## New Look is sold to institutions for £170m

**By Martin Barrow**  
NEW LOOK, one of the UK's largest womenswear retailing chains, has been sold for up to £170 million, it was announced yesterday.



Arm combat: Granada's Gerry Robinson, left, and Sir Rocco Forte wrestling for the initiative in their £3.2bn takeover battle

## Forte plans put pressure on Granada to raise bid

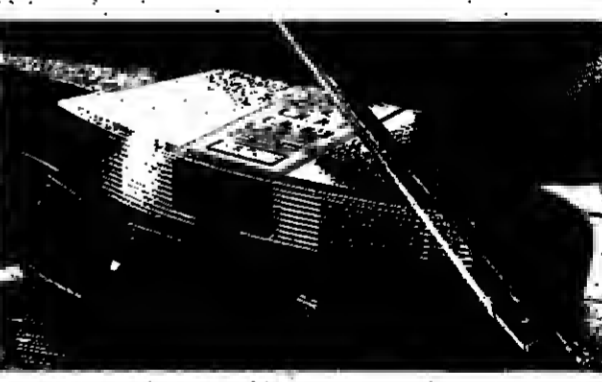
**By Eric Reguly**  
GRANADA will come under additional pressure today to raise its bid for Forte with the publication of the hotel and catering group's final defence document.

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and answers.

## London young face bleak jobs outlook, says report

**By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor**  
MASS youth unemployment in London, leading to deepening economic and social deprivation, is now a "real danger", an economic assessment of the capital's prospects suggests.



## Small wonder brings you big, lifelike sound.

Introducing the Bose® Wave® radio. Enjoy the distinct sound of strings in your kitchen. Or the full orchestra in your bedroom.

## Smart card slow to catch on

**By Philip Pangalos**  
BRITAIN'S first attempt at a cashless society has been slow to catch on. But the founders of Mondex, an electronic cash system devised by National Westminster Bank, with Midland Bank and British Telecom, still hope that electronic money will find public favour in its UK trial and go national next year.

Crossword puzzle solutions and additional clues.

Form for requesting a Bose Wave radio, including fields for name, address, and phone number.

black and white paths in colour



**■ VISUAL ART 1**  
A new exhibition at the Tate looks at how black people have been ignored by artists for centuries

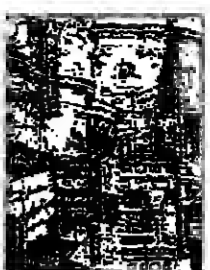


**■ VISUAL ART 2**  
A London showing for the blurred and fragmented visions of the late artist Aubrey Williams

**THE TIMES ARTS**



**■ POP**  
After months of doubt, the Manic Street Preachers finally burst back into life with a Wembley gig



**■ TOMORROW**  
From West End musicals to Hollywood films, Times critics pick the hottest tickets in town

Richard Cork on a Tate exhibition of art's treatment of black people; plus other London shows

# Old black and white truths in colour

Learning in her most resplendent regal attire, Queen Victoria offers a stoutly bound Bible to an African king. Although his status is trumpeted by the feathers, jewels and fur he wears, the unknown monarch bows before his Empress. Outshone by the whiteness of the Queen, and outnumbered by the presence of Prince Albert, Lord Palmerston and John Russell, he is at once awed and grateful. For Victoria is honouring her imperial duty to civilise the colonies, and this solemn presentation at Windsor is clearly meant to confirm her magnanimity.

After Thomas Jones Barker painted this supremely smug scene around 1861, the picture also became known as *The Secret of England's Greatness*. But the truth is that the black people who lived in Britain had been either marginalised or ignored by its artists for a long time.

## Black people who lived in Britain were ignored by its artists

Four centuries of painting were available to the organisers of the Tate Gallery's illuminating exhibition, *Picturing Blackness in British Art*. Tudor and Stuart portraits are, however, dominated by the fashionably blanched faces of all-white grandees. No room was found in these pictures for the men and women from Africa, the Caribbean and the Americas who had already settled here.

When black people begin to appear, they are regarded merely as exotic baubles. The servant in *An Elegant Company Playing Cards*, a stilted conversation-piece attributed to Gervase Hamilton, would be easy to miss. He hovers, overdressed and unregarded, on the edges of the scene. Scarcely more important than the household pet beside him, he exists as an amusing adornment for a family determined to boost its status with the latest accessories. At this stage, in the 1720s, black faces were deemed worthy of inclusion in such paintings only if suitably costumed and subordinate to the principal, impeccably white-skinned figures.

All the more remarkable, then, to find Reynolds devoting a portrait solely to the commanding presence of *A Young Black*. The Tate's two versions of this half-length painting are studio copies of the original in the Menil Foundation Collection at Houston. But they are noble enough to show that Reynolds invested Francis "Frank" Barber, a Jamaican-born servant, with the dignity accorded to many of the artist's aristocratic sitters.

Would he have been willing to do so if Barber was not Samuel Johnson's favourite servant? The question must remain open.



Black in the foreground, but still kept firmly in the background: Dante Gabriel Rossetti's *The Beloved* (1865-66)

position. Although a generous foreground space is allotted to a chimney-sweep, celebrating the festival by dancing as a costumed Jack-in-the-Green, he may well be a white man in sooty make-up. Far more telling is the black servant in the background, mounted on a coach taking a wedding couple away from Marylebone Church. Bride, groom and coach-driver gaze at the purling panorama of street sellers, pick-pockets and entertainers, but the black footman is expected to stare straight ahead, denying himself the pleasure of scanning street life.

The truth about British attitudes in the 1860s was disclosed half-way through the decade, when Dante Gabriel Rossetti concocted his sumptuous pre-Raphaelite fantasy called *The Beloved*. The prominence accorded to the black girl in the foreground might suggest, momentarily at least, that Rossetti wanted to laud her beauty. However, she stares out at us with a troubled expression. Perhaps her frown indicates an awareness that she is simply a foil for the dazzling whiteness of the beloved, who has pulled aside a bridal veil to show off the unblemished sheen of her skin.

Her absolute confidence, buttressed by the admiring attention of her equally pure Caucasian handmaidens, makes the black girl's gaze seem even more perturbed. Although bedazzled in jewellery, and proffering a bouquet to her mistress, she appears nothing more than an outlandish adjunct to the bride's resplendent charms. After such questionable headiness, it is a relief to reach the 20th century and find black people given adult status

once more. True, Edward Burra finds an exotic allure in the denizens of 1930s Harlem, and places them on a street stagey enough for a sanitised musical version of ghetto life. But Burra makes clear his admiration for the sex, stylish agility of the nonchalant young man flicking his ash on the pavement. The white English artist, finding himself for once in an outsider's position, relishes and maybe yearns for the supposedly self-conscious vitality of black culture.

The divide is still keenly felt here; but if Stanley Spencer's great painting of *The Resurrection, Cookham* had been included in the exhibition, a far more unifying vision would assert itself. For Spencer universalises his monumental canvas by showing, next to the church porch, a group of black men and women rising from the sun-cracked earth. They join the villagers of Cookham in a genuinely multi-racial act of renewal, created by an artist who refused to set any narrow ethnic boundaries around his redemptive vision.

The absence of Spencer's masterpiece, on view elsewhere in the Tate, made me realise how rewarding a larger exhibition on this theme would be. On the present occasion, only two artists are chosen to represent contemporary work by black artists. Both Sonia Boyce and Lubaina Himid make memorable contributions, but they could easily have been accompanied by others. I hope *Picturing Blackness* leads on to further and deeper explorations, promoting an enlarged awareness of the myths which continue to hamper our understanding of what the word "British" really means.

*Picturing Blackness is at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (0171-887 8000) until Mar 10*

# Promises for a golden future

**POP**  
Stone Roses/Manic Street Preachers Wembley Arena

WHILE the carpet was rolled back and the Britpop parry raged throughout 1995, these two bands might have seemed to be in the kitchen staring at their shoes. In truth, both the Roses and the Preachers were turning adversity into strength.

The Stone Roses, as documented in these pages recently, ended a year of upheaval and backlash by doing the right thing: putting themselves before a still-adoring British public. The five-year hiatus after the Roses' droolingly-received 1989 debut album meant that they spent much of the past 12 months fighting against their own reputation. But a few weeks back in the trenches of live work meant that by the time they got to Wembley, they were cutting an impressive swag, both on booming anthems such as *I Wanna Be Adored* and *Waterfall* and the Second Coming ballad *10 Storey Love Song*.

But by then, the evening had already become one to remember for another reason. They may put a plaque up outside this chilly citadel to mark the place where Manic Street Preachers came back to life.

The much debated disappearance of the group's rhythm guitarist and lyricist Richey James cast the Manics into an uncertainty that was itself a tribute to their fellow-ship. James's absence threw into doubt the very future of a band that, in three albums

since 1992, had become one of Britain's most vital, most fiery rock properties.

With no word on James's fate, the remaining members decided only recently to enter the studio and begin work on a new record as a three-piece, and this guest slot served as a statement of that intent. In the process, it yelled from the rooftops that, even if a part of their inner selves is still AWOL, the Manics are ready to re-emerge mightier than ever in 1996.

In just 40 minutes, and with no verbal reference to the anguish that led them here, the band vented themselves on angry versions of *You Love Us* and *From Despair to Where*. But with lead singer and guitarist James Dean Bradfield more of a linchpin than even in earlier days, they opened a chest of sparkling new songs including *Design for Life* and *Everything Must Go* that, with synthesizer detail bolted onto their guitar framework, showed a new maturity that was truly invigorating. From despair to here, and then respectfully upwards.

PAUL SEXTON

# Baroque of ages

**RECITAL**  
King's Consort Wigmore Hall

APART from the festive crackers spread around the refreshment room, New Year's Eve here was essentially a serious-minded celebration of the past in terms of the present, with a finely ordered programme of (mostly) 17th-century baroque music by the King's Consort, directed from the organ or harpsichord by their founder, Robert King. He had called up a couple of shadowy musical ghosts to stand alongside the more substantial shades of Bach and Telemann.

The music of Pavel Veyvanovsky, a Moravian composer who spent all his life at a provincial ecclesiastical court, has evidently caught King's ear to an extent that was itself a tribute to their fellow-ship. James's absence threw into doubt the very future of a band that, in three albums

counter-tenor tone elevated this familiar text to the calibre of a passionate aria threaded over strings and continuo.

But this was eclipsed by the same singer's superb delivery of a sorrowful *Lamentatio* by Johann Christoph Bach (uncle of Sebastian). The word-painting of the text is infused with wonderfully poignant harmonies of voice and strings, to which the theorbo added its distinctive twang to melancholy effect.

The soloist's impeccable style and flexible technique was further extended in a Sebastian Bach cantata, No 170, *Vergnügte Ruh* (O blessed rest), three arias separated by confident recitatives and the first and last arias adorned with grace and spirit in the oboe d'amore solos played by Katharina Spreckelsen. King's unobtrusive but secure direction throughout ensured a constantly benign balance of ensemble giving its benediction to an old year's music.

NOEL GOODWIN

## AROUND THE GALLERIES

In the paintings of Aubrey Williams's *Cosmos Series* a number of sparkling, splintered elements spin off against a very dark ground. These are some of the last paintings that Williams made before he died in 1990, and in many ways they anticipate much contemporary painting, with its blurred and fragmented vision. But there is nothing

random about their organisation, or the thinking behind them. In these images that suggest the idea of lift-off into space, Williams, after three decades of painting, evokes the process of achieving an overview, a grasp on reality. At the centre of each of the main pictures are clusters of jostling activity: microbes, mountains, or the sights of a gun erupt

into a sulphuric atmosphere, creating a deliberately ambiguous sense of scale. *The October Gallery, 24 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1 (0171-242 7367), until January 27*

Virginia Verran's recent paintings use a skid of brush and a flicker of light against dark to suggest changing speed. The paintings are often large enough to reach from floor to ceiling at the Francis Graham-Dixon Gallery. They seem positively to swell, bursting with blurred colour and detail in salmon pinks, reds, and purple-brown blacks. In this rich field of colour, fine sharp points of paint provide sudden opportunities for physical and mental focus, punctuating an otherwise difficult visual journey. If the paintings describe anything at all, they seem to be about the aftermath of an incident rather than the thing itself, a struggle for clarity of vision and memory. *Francis Graham-Dixon Gallery, 17-18 Gt Sutton Street, London EC1 (0171-250 1962), until January 20*

As the culmination of a five-week residency at Camden Arts Centre, the sculptor Keith Wilson has collected a great deal of furniture and brought it back to base. The result is *Theft by Finding*, a series of arrangements of that furniture in one of the main galleries. Each individual



*Nebula Cluster*, 1985, one of the paintings from Aubrey Williams's *Cosmos Series*

piece treads a precarious path between its formal artistic potential and its functional associations. Without really transforming anything, Wilson manipulates the individual elements, making them lean, lie, and sit in touching and humorous relationships to each other. The "true" nature of a filing cabinet, musical instrument case, bed, tin bath, sextet, or desk, remains the same, and yet is fundamentally altered. This work has none of the gravity-defying, virtuoso manipulation that characterises much

current sculpture, but instead encourages free association based on the objects' current position in the gallery and their past use elsewhere. *Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, London NW3 (0171-435 2643) to January 21*

Artists' books zigzag across display tables, while framed works on paper, with fine line and occasional flat colour, hang on the walls. The often rather precious medium of the art book is given a somewhat more solid and robust form in *Partwork*, a successful col-

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صحنه من الأصل

A-Z OF COSMETIC SURGERY

# At the cutting edge of the beauty business

AESTHETIC plastic surgery has had a bad press. Ministers, anxious to cut the NHS bill, invariably discuss cosmetic surgery in disparaging terms and still refer to it as if its only role was to pander to conceit by attempting to give a youthful appearance to ageing faces.

Cosmetic surgery does indeed make people look younger and brighter, but by doing so may alter the lifestyle of the patients, boost their sense of wellbeing and self-esteem, and thereby improve their job opportunities, increase their interests and extend their social horizons. Cosmetic surgeons and dermatologists — whose work involves erasing the ravages of time from the contours and complexion of the face — report increasingly brisk business.

As life in the cities and professions becomes tougher and less considerate, many older people, rightly or wrongly, feel threatened by youth and want to blur the age difference. Barristers, accountants, city solicitors and financiers of both sexes have joined the beauty-conscious woman in asking for the shadows and bags to be removed from under their eyes, wrinkles to be ironed out, and sagging faces to be lifted. Men have not only been investing in products to stimulate hair growth, but have also increasingly been turning to cosmetic surgeons for hair transplants.

### TECHNIQUES

TECHNIQUES in face-lifting have improved enormously in the last few years. The fear that after surgery a face would look as fat as the Duchess of Windsor, or that, like an earlier Duchess of Marlborough, the patient might have to remain hidden from society, is now unnecessary, provided that a good surgeon is employed.

But face-lifting, even with keyhole surgery, is still very complex and requires great skill and a detailed knowledge of anatomy if the result is to be pleasing. Most scars are almost entirely hidden in the hairline — above or behind the ears — and any in front of the ears soon fade.

If there is a price to pay for losing the flabby skin of the neck, the sagging jaw line and the drooping mouth, it is fortunately usually no more than bruising, or a transient numbness where a nerve has been damaged. Very occasionally the injury to the nerve causes permanent damage, and sometimes, particularly in smokers, a poor peripheral circulation leaves a wide scar which the hair cannot hide.

### NOSES AND EARS

MANY patients opt for minor degrees of facial reconstruction.

Sagging jaw line, baggy eyes, flabby breasts, prominent nose? Dr Thomas Stuttford on the latest ways in which medical science can achieve a new, improved you

tion. Noses and ears cause constant anxiety. An excessively large nose can be a source of embarrassment, teasing and even bullying of children at school. Most — but not all — adult men learn to tolerate it, but for a woman it can remain a cause of misery.



above the eye and stitching. The scar, usually a fine one, is hidden in the eyebrows and the natural skin creases. A surprising number of people are concerned about shadows

around the eye; they feel that this not only looks unattractive but makes them appear permanently tired and ill. There are three courses for excess eye shadowing. If the veins are too close to the skin, laser treatment may help but the results are often disappointing. More often there is increased pigmentation which gets darker as the patient grows older.

The tendency to excessive pigmentation is usually familial, but rather than blaming ancestors, it would be better to ask your doctor to arrange ultraprime carbon dioxide laser treatment. Professor Nicholas Lowe of the University of California and the Cranley Clinic in London says that this procedure is usually very effective, particularly when the pigmentation is darkest on the inner side of the orbit nearest to the nose. Similar treatment with the laser is useful for removing excessive pigmentation around the mouth or the brown spots caused by acne or the damage caused to the skin by a lifetime in the sun.

Finally some eyeshadowing is literally just that: shadows caused by loose bags under the eyes. These people would benefit from blepharoplasty.

### EYES

BAGS under the eyes and drooping eyelids are perhaps the most common complaint. Blepharoplasty is the surgeon's answer to the anxiety.

The surgeon removes surplus skin from the eyelids, tightens up the muscles, and takes away any excess fat which is deposited around the eyes. The patient then looks younger and much more alert. Financiers, male as well as female, who are bright and thrusting rather than laid back and inscrutable, frequently request blepharoplasty. Their friends find it hard to pinpoint the difference afterwards, merely remarking on how well they look. If the eyebrows droop as well, these can be hitched up by the incision of a piece of skin

### SKIN

RESURFACING of an ageing skin can be achieved by chemical peeling agents, or by dermabrasion, in which the surface layers of the skin are mechanically worn away by an abrasive wheel. Hyperpigmentation, roughness and fine skin wrinkles can often be removed, or the creases filled out, by the use of Retinova (tretinoin), which needs to be applied daily for several months. It is not recommended for those people who have a personal history, or even a family history, of some types of malignant skin cancers, and must not be used by pregnant women.

Deeper lines and the craters left from acne need filling out with liquid collagen injections. These are not everlasting and need to be repeated comparatively often. A face-lift will

tighten up the skin of the face but tends to leave the deep vertical lines which form around the mouth, and collagen injections are necessary to disguise these.

### BREASTS

NOT ONLY faces but also bodies can be remodelled. Breasts can be tightened and augmented, and the laxity which so often follows childbirth can be corrected. Some women worry that their breasts are smaller than average, and they feel others think of them as being less feminine than they would wish. Although the medical evidence has largely exonerated silicone implants, doubts as to their safety remain, so most implants are now made of either soya oil or saline.

Breast reduction in appropriate cases can be very successful and transform a younger woman's social life. Patients need to discuss the operation, and their feelings about it, in detail with the surgeon before it is undertaken, for sometimes anxiety over breast size can conceal deep psychological concerns. Afterwards the breast is scarred, but many women prefer a few neat scars to disproportionately large bosoms which they see as a source of embarrassment.

### STOMACH

A FLABBY stomach inevitably causes distress and cannot always be hidden by clothes. Surgeons can remove excessive skin by an operation known as abdominoplasty, but as with breast reduction, it leaves scars. The scars after abdominoplasty run from above both hips right across the lower abdomen, with the further small scar around the umbilicus, which has to be repositioned in its former natural spot. When there is an excessive roll of fat — the traditional spare tyre — modification by abdominoplasty allows the tissue to be cut away en masse. Liposuction can be used to remove smaller collections of fat.

If your concern is excessive wrinkling, thinning hair, a sagging jaw line, baggy eyes, flabby breasts, protruding belly, receding chin, or just an ageing face, 1996 could, with the help of a member of the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, be very different.

The association produces booklets for doctors and the general public about the advantages and, perhaps even more importantly, the disadvantages and possible side-effects of the various operations performed by its members. General practitioners will be able to advise on the particular skills of any of the surgeons listed in the membership booklet, discuss the desirability of surgery, and arrange for referral to the appropriate specialist.

● The British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, The Royal College of Surgeons, 34-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN



Even with keyhole surgery, face-lifting is still very complex and requires great skill and anatomical knowledge

## Men demand the body beautiful

I ncreasing demand for cosmetic surgery for men is extending to breast implants to improve the appearance of the male chest. The prospect of adding an effortless extra inch or two to the pectoral area is enticing men to the clinics that have, up to now, catered mainly for women.

The Harley Medical Group, which runs four clinics around the country, says a fifth of its clients were men in 1993 but the proportion rose to a third in 1994 and increased again last year. The most popular male operation is a rhinoplasty — surgery on the nose, usually to reduce its size or smooth out a bump on the bridge. Breast reduction among men who have acquired excess fat on their chests is also frequently requested. This is achieved by liposuction, which involves inserting a needle and sucking out excess fat.

However, breast augmentation to swell the pectoral muscles is in growing demand. Diane Hanson, manager of the Harley Medical clinic in Birmingham, says that nationally the group is doing two such operations a week. About half of them are bodybuilders making the finishing touches, she says. "They expose their bodies more than most of us and are conscious of the way they look. Many have a good physique, but there may be one part of their body where they feel they are lacking."

### Jeremy Laurance on a boom in male surgery



Bodybuilders seek pecs appeal

as for a woman, and involves the insertion of silicone implants from one to five centimetres thick behind the pectoral muscles, to throw them forward.

In men the implants are inserted through an incision under the arm, where the hair will conceal the scar. In women, who are more likely to shave under their arms, the incision is usually made at the base of the breast.

Stuart, 29, had implants two centimetres thick inserted last November. A sales manager with a company in Birmingham, he has told no one about the operation.

"I work out three or four times a week," he says. "I have a very good physique but I lacked pectoral develop-

ment. When I undressed, it just didn't look right. Before surgery I had a 46-inch chest and a 30-inch waist but was embarrassed about his appearance. "I stopped me going on holiday," he says. "I wouldn't take my shirt off for anybody. Even my parents don't know about this."

"I was quite a skinny lad until I took up bodybuilding six years ago. Everything else developed except this — I have big shoulders, big arms, a big back and legs. It made me miserable."

At five feet eight inches tall, he now weighs 15 stone, up from 9½ stone. But despite a punishing exercise regime, his pectorals refused to develop. He has previously had liposuction to keep his waist trim. He says the implant operation was worth the money. "I am not bothered what others think about me. It is the way I feel about myself that matters."

Unlike augmentation, breast reduction is cheaper for men — at between £2,000 and £2,500 — than for women, who are charged £4,000 to £4,500. The operation is more complex in women because of the presence of the mammary gland. "It is much more intricate and involves a lot more surgical tailoring," Ms Hanson says.

The Harley Medical Group's clinics perform more than five times more breast reductions than augmentations on men. Among women, breast augmentation is more popular.

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### The benefits of a dental implant

## Smile, please, and say titanium

WHEN Martin Amis spent £20,000 on his teeth, in January 1995, the press went wild at his apparent profligacy. What kind of dental procedure could cost the same as a new BMW? The answer, it turned out, was implant reconstruction, one of the greatest — and yet least publicised — developments in modern cosmetic surgery.

Michael Morton, one of fewer than ten British dentists who practise the operation exclusively, says the continued low profile of dental implants is due to a lack of media interest in teeth, which has kept public awareness down, and to the fact that in Britain we still do not expect to pay for dentistry. "In America, Italy, and France," he says, "where private dental care is long established, there is much greater demand from patients." Amis, indeed, was treated in the US. It is a remarkable operation. A titanium root — a sort

of hollow screw — is screwed into the jaw bone and site of the original root. A titanium post is then screwed into the root and protrudes through the gums into the mouth. A gold and porcelain tooth is built around it, resulting in a chopper that is as good as, if not better than, the original.

"Imagine a young person has had a cycling accident and knocked out a tooth," says Mr Morton, whose *Dental Implants — A Guide for the General Practitioner* is the only British book on the subject. "He will have four options. He can have a bridge, which involves cutting down the two adjacent teeth and damaging them permanently. He can have an adhesive false tooth, although research suggests it will come off at least once a year. Or he can have a denture, which involves a great plastic plate in the mouth for just one or two teeth. Any professional sportsman who has teeth

ing titanium chambers in their limbs. Titanium chambers being more expensive than rabbits, he returned to the tested animals after experiments to retrieve his screws, and discovered that it was impossible because the metal had fused to the bone. Realising the dental potential of his discovery he set about developing the implant system — and to this day the Branemark implant is acknowledged as one of the best. And thus future generations of dentists may find patients paying them a visit in the hope of being given rabbit teeth.

GILES COREN

Implants are as good as, if not better than, the original

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# Just why do people overeat?



There's fat chance of finding a cure for greed, whatever theories the scientists come up with to explain the tide of obesity, says Nigella Lawson

Scientists, I have to conclude, are nice people. They want us to feel better about ourselves. What's more — self-interest and altruism can, you see, co-exist — they want us to know that it is they themselves who can make us feel so much better.

All those men and women in their white coats have been beavering away in their labs with their rats and their mice, struggling to come up with a miracle pill that will make it easy for us to lose weight. Just a day or so ago, some of their number announced that a breakthrough had been made: the gene that may be responsible for appetite regulation would appear to have been discovered. In other words, no longer do the overweight have to put up with being blamed for lacking in willpower — what they make up for in greed; they are exculpated; they can simply produce the perfect, genetic excuse. What a comforting message for all of those depressed about their seasonal weight gain and the prospect of the regulatory diet ahead. Happy New Year to everybody.

But, of course, it's not quite like that, is it? There seems to be an enduring fallacy that those who overeat do so because they are hungrier than those who eat less. Within reason — that's, to say, within a narrowish band — it might well be the case. But I have never met anyone who overeats steadily — enough to put on troubling amounts of weight — who does so purely out of rampant hunger.

Be honest: those of you who have added to your bulk over Christmas haven't done so because you unaccountably felt hungrier then. You have overeaten because you were

surrounded by food and there wasn't much else to do except eat it. That's the truth, isn't it? Any time I have put on weight, it's been because I've eaten regardless of how hungry I am. So-called comfort eating, because any comfort the food brings is fleeting and overridden by the discomfort, both physical and mental, that follows is not prompted by actual hunger. That would be much easier to satisfy. And the difficulty with starting to eat when one isn't hungry is that there is no cue to stop.

Whatever the scientists may say about leptin — the protein that they think might regulate appetite — as long as people are able to eat without feeling the faintest twinge of hunger, they will continue to do so. And interestingly, many studies have shown that most obese people are not deficient in leptin anyway. What scientists have thus concluded is that there is, in fat people, a defective receptor in the brain which prevents the signal from the leptin getting through. I'd be interested to know whether overeating itself — and I mean serious overeating, over time — can throw this receptor off. Because we all know, too, that it is overeating in the first place which makes us feel that we need more food. It's self-perpetuating.

If anything, people who are overweight tend to feel less hungry than those of normal weight. Maybe that's because one of the symptoms, if one can call it that, of the overweight is a fear of hunger. If you eat too much, too often, you will never be in a position of being hungry.

When tests have been done on this subject, what's indeed been found is that people of



Now that the season to eat, drink and be merry has passed, millions are viewing their excess pounds with dismay. A weight-loss pill would make a fortune

about average weight tend to use the internal cues of hunger as a prompt to eat, whereas those very much above average weight are stimulated by external cues. In other words, they see a plate of cakes or a table laid with food and immediately consider themselves hungry, whereas it hadn't occurred to them that they were hungry before the delicious vision appeared in front of them.

I must admit I have some sympathy with this way of being. However full-up I am halfway through eating, I find it all but impossible to leave anything on my plate. That's in part due to my upbringing, but also because I'm greedy. Indeed, I have been a restaurant critic for more than a decade, and now write a food column too, and would find both hard without the ability to eat — and what's more to eat pleasurably — when not hungry.

Obscene as that sounds, that's the obvious truth. The trick is, though — and it's the only trick and, therefore, no trick at all — to eat only when hungry, and stop when not, most of the time. Simple and irritatingly true though this is, it isn't, I admit, always easy to follow.

I wonder, anyway, whether it isn't a more normal response to overeat when faced with an overabundance of food than it is to show admirable restraint. Our natural impulses are surely to store up energy supplies: the Homer Simpson-like desire to eat whatever's available whenever it's available must be, somewhere along the line, biologically determined.

I do not mean by this to go over to the other side, as it were. The essence of civilised behaviour is anyway to override the dictates of nature.

Furthermore, from what I can gather from the writings of a larger body of scientists that have come up with the newest key to weight loss, it is not the increase in caloric consumption that is making us fatter, but a decrease in caloric expenditure. In other words, we don't need to eat less, just exercise more. Everyone has something invested, however, in coming up with a more comfortable solution. One can hardly imagine the fortunes to be made from coming up with the miracle weight-loss pill, regardless of whether it works in the long-term or not.

## The trick is to eat only when hungry, and stop when not

increased the fibre. The mice shed their excess weight, as indeed the scientists knew they would.

But I do agree, it's easier for the mice. They eat what they're given. Rather more effort is required from those of us who face the temptations of the overstuffed delicatessen and supermarket and, consequently, the overstuffed fridge.

Overeating is practically an occupational hazard of being alive in the consumer age. But one shouldn't get too puritanical about it: flesh is not something to be abhorred, nor food something to be disdained. In culinary matters I concede: greed is good.

But hunger has absolutely nothing to do with it.

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But hunger has absolutely nothing to do with it.

## Quentin Letts meets Madhur Jaffrey on her home ground — not Delhi or Surrey but Manhattan

# Actress who gives spice to our lives



Madhur Jaffrey as Lady Srinivasan, mentor to Una Gwithian (Hattie Morahan) in *The Peacock Spring*

men I had crushes on were there. It was a wonderful night full of the promise of love.

Returning to the Gymkhana Club with the film crew, she walked in to the ballroom with Christopher Morahan, the director of *The Peacock Spring*. Before them, a magnificent shaft of light shone through a window. "I was suddenly taken right back to that night when I was young, that evening that was so special," she says.

That romantic story was interrupted by the arrival of the eggs — a tad runny — and served in a cup. They were consumed with care, and a sprinkling of black pepper administered with the little finger held aloft. She continued with talk of far-off India, its mists and wafting woodsmoke complemented by a singeing coming from the diner's waffle griddle.

The family was brought up in a

huge Delhi compound, a series of villas built on land which the family received in exchange for murky political favours to the Raj in the mid-19th century. "I'm sorry to say that our family aided the British during the mutiny of 1857," she says. There were normally about 20 family members in the compound, but sometimes many more.

The young Madhur, educated at St Mary's Convent in Delhi and Queen Mary's Higher Secondary School in Kanpur, was expected to go in to the Civil Service. Instead, she managed to gain a place at drama school in London and found herself in the same class as Diana Rigg.

London in the late 1950s was a whirl. Bertolt Brecht's newly post-humous plays were the rage, and Peter Brook was in nightly triumph at the Phoenix. "I remember sitting

in the gods watching Richard Burton play Othello one night, lago the next," says Mrs Jaffrey, chewing on a dry bagel.

She met Saeed Jaffrey, then a promising young actor, fell in love, and wed. They took the *Queen Mary* and set sail for a new life in the States. "I came out on deck to see the Statue of Liberty. Everything was new and exciting," Mrs Jaffrey says. The love affair with America lasted slightly longer than the one with Saeed, alas, and she left their home in Washington DC to move, alone, to New York.

To supplement the dismal money paid by off-Broadway shows she took a job as a guide at the United Nations, then at the new Lincoln Centre, where she met Sanford Allen, a young violinist. They have been happily married for more than 25 years.

So much has happened since, but

New York, where Mr Allen plays with the Philharmonic, has been a constant factor. The interest in cooking began when she was living in Golders Green and, in despair at the endless string of cold meals, she wrote to her mother in Delhi to ask for decent recipes.

When she reached America, people were intrigued by her Indian dishes so she turned her mother's letters into a book. Further volumes followed.

She has gone on to do television and radio work, has immersed herself in the family — of her three daughters, two are mothers — and has become accepted by the Merchant Ivory clique. There is unspecified talk of novel-writing and film direction this year.

All of the time, however, acting has nibbled away at her soul, and she has taken numerous roles over the years, from *Cotton Mary* to *Heor and Dost*, *Yonka* on 42nd Street, a stage *Medea* and now *The Peacock Spring*.

Given the success of her cookery books Mrs Jaffrey probably need not work, but sloth is not in her nature. "I was born into a comfortable caste [koyasho, the caste of senior officials and mandarins] but as a woman I had none of the fruits of that caste," she says. "The men in India are not motivated. But I was not born a man." With curry houses finally making headway in New York, she probably also has a chance to expand her cooking interests. She is consultant to one of Manhattan's smarter Indian restaurants.

But what America really seems to suit is her wanderlust, her sparkle. "Ah, the land of Marlon Brando!" she exclaimed to herself when she first arrived. She delights in the new, the imaginative.

When Sir Edwin Lytens was planning New Delhi he invited Mrs Jaffrey's grandfather, a friend, to take a parcel of prime land in the new project for a bargain price. "Grandfather told Lytens, 'You mean that jungle? No way!'" Mrs Jaffrey says. "That land," she says with a grin, "would now be worth many millions. Many, many!"

If Lytens had put the same proposition to his old friend's granddaughter, one imagines, the answer might have been more positive.

Part two of *The Peacock Spring* is on BBC1 tonight at 9.30pm.

INSIDE SECTION 2 Why lawyers in traumatic trials should be offered counselling sessions to cope with the stress Page 29

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# The sands have not run out

Anthony Parsons on a peaceful transition in Saudi Arabia

Regimes in Arabia have two defining characteristics: their longevity, and their ability to baffle the West by finding ways round crises which from outside look insurmountable.

Assuming that King Fahd's delegation of authority to Prince Abdullah is permanent, the latter will be fifth in succession since the founder of the Kingdom, Abdel Aziz Ibn Saud, died in November 1953. Previous successions have taken place in far more troubled circumstances, such as when King Faisal succeeded King Saud at the height of pan-Arab republicanism (Nasserism) in 1964, or when King Faisal was murdered by a member of the family in 1975. On both occasions, family solidarity weathered the storm. There is no reason why the same should not be the case today.

A smooth transition in Saudi Arabia is as important to the West as it ever was. The end of the Cold War has made little difference. The Arabian peninsula still contains a substantial proportion of the world's oil reserves. Anarchy or radical change in Saudi Arabia would have an immediate impact on the stability of the smaller states, from Kuwait to Oman. Strategically, Saudi Arabia lies between the area of the Arab-Israeli dispute, now at a delicate stage, and the potentially menacing states to the East, namely Saddam Hussein's Iraq and the Shia Muslim theocracy of Iran. The key role of Saudi Arabia in operation Desert Storm five years ago is fresh in our minds, and the mulish in the Tehran have been, to say the least, on uneasy terms with the fundamentalist Sunni regime in Riyadh since the fall of the Shah in 1979.

Many commentators have recently predicted trouble for the monarchical regimes in the peninsula. But in my view, the ruling families in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states are under less external pressure than at any time since the 1950s. They survived with difficulty the tempest of the socialist, republican, anti-imperialist Arab nationalism which swept away the Egyptian and Iraqi monarchs in the 1950s and which destabilised the whole region until it died with the catastrophic defeat of Arab armies at the hands of the Israelis in June 1967.

Thereafter, Arab public opinion was inflamed by the Palestine problem under the leadership of the PLO, and regimes such as Saudi Arabia which maintained close relations with the West had to stay close to an Arab consensus. In fact, by the 1980s Saudi Arabia had taken the lead in formulating Arab policy on this question. Then, throughout most of the 1980s, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States were dangerously close to the longest and bloodiest interstate war since 1945, the Iran-Iraq conflict launched by Saddam's invasion of south-west Iran in 1980. There is little doubt that without the help of oil-rich Arab states, Iraq would have been beaten, rather than forcing a draw.

In 1990, the underlying truth was at last revealed. The threat of territorial aggression against Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, as opposed to subversion, came not from revolutionary Iran, but from sister Iraq. Few people doubt that after gobbling up Kuwait, Saddam would have gone on to dominate Saudi Arabia through a permanent threat of invasion, a threat which would not have hesitated to implement had he been allowed to get away with his Kuwaiti adventure.

Today all those threats have subsided. Iraq has been neutralised by Desert Storm and the continuing UN sanctions. The revolutionary fire is dying down in Iraq, although there are still ardent spirits who would be glad to stir up trouble among the Shia communities on the Arab shore of the Gulf. However, the mulish have their hands full with economic recovery, and I do not believe that they have territorial ambitions in the Arab world.

Pan-Arabism is a dead duck; there is no longer such a thing as an Arab consensus on Palestine as the so-called "peace process" edges forward. In any case, Saudi Arabia is widely recognised as a leading player in the Arab League, and it is many years since any but maverick regimes publicly criticised Saudi policy. Before 1990, American support for Saudi integrity had to be kept "over the horizon" because of wider Arab sensitivity about Washington's relationship with Israel. Saddam's naked aggression against a sister Arab state changed that.

What threat there may be to stability comes from within. Growing populations and the increasing complexity of government have eroded the direct access between rulers and ruled, which used to be a partial substitute for democracy. Declining oil prices and the costs of the Gulf War have made it increasingly difficult to maintain expensive social and economic infrastructures such as free education, health services and subsidised housing, without resort to significant taxation. Education and travel are heightening political aspirations among the younger generation.

These factors could well combine to generate strong pressure for changes to a method of government which seems to have more to do with the 18th than the 20th century. If the peninsula were an oasis of autocracy in a sea of established democracies, such pressure could become irresistible; but it is not. Anyone seeking radical change in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf has only to look at the dire nature of neighbouring alternatives to wonder whether it would not be better to leave well alone — or at most to seek gradual rather than violent change.

Sir Anthony is a Middle East specialist and former Ambassador to Tehran.



# Not so very pastoral

Many a rural scene masks suffering and poverty as grim as any city's

Here we go! The new year barely begun, and already the bile is rising nicely. Never mind "Bishop slams Jackpot" and "Portillo slams Nicholson"; let us start 1996 by considering "Aga Saga Queen slams Cotswold village". Which tabloid headline chronicles a magnificently silly conflict between the novelist Joanna Trollope and the unremarkable settlement of Aston Magna, Gloucestershire.

Ms Trollope — with, as she shall see, the most humane of intentions — described the village as "a truly dismal place", with problems in common with Manchester's Moss Side. Of course she meant to be provocative; if you want to wake up an audience of 30 in *Stow-on-the-Wold*, all experts agree, provocation is the quickest way to do it. Her remarks were made seven weeks ago in a speech on behalf of the Gloucestershire Community Foundation; they caused a small, local stir for all of five minutes. Rural umbrage travels slowly but surely: within a week or two the tabloid headline appeared, and now the incident has been given a fresh lease of life by the shootings in Moss Side at the weekend, forming as they do a nice contrast with the stary-eyed return of the intelligentsia from their idyllic Christmas in Much-Wittering-in-the-Saab.

So for yesterday's *Daily Telegraph*, an Aston Magna parish councillor and a chap from the Gloucestershire Police were wheeled out to damn Joanna Trollope again. They even found a Methodist minister in Moss Side to get huffy at the comparison, saying "the communists are very different and it is difficult to find any parallels".

Which is (sorry, Minister) bunkum. Of course there are parallels between urban poverty and the rural kind. A nice view does not neutralise debt and despair, nor prevent you being old and cold, young and hopeless, or afraid of your violent husband. Perhaps it just takes a middle-aged literary lady to admit it. A novelist, after all, is a professional people-watcher and not a politician; Joanna Trollope has nothing to gain or lose by telling the truth, and so feels no need to exercise craven diplomacy or even the sort of creaking political correctness so prevalent in *The Archers*. Therefore she is free to say, in terms as strong as it takes, that deprivation, sadness, loneliness and sin exist in the rolling countryside as well as the teeming city.

After all, it was another novelist, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who had Sherlock Holmes observe that "the lowest and vilest alleys of London do not present a more dreadful record of sin than does the smiling and beautiful countryside". He was talking about domestic crime: the unseen cruelties in the remote house and the lack of neighbours to intervene (today, after the West affair, he would have to admit that a city street is no longer much protected). Joanna Trollope, on the platform of a charity foundation, was drawing attention to the rural incidence of poverty, unemployment, poor housing, bad health, lone parenthood and the temptation to crime and drugs (Cirencester, for all its prettiness, has a teenage drug problem). She said, and should not repent saying, that it is cruel and silly for outsiders and weekenders and insulated parvenus to think that "the country" is somehow magically protected from these things. She also said that it is the duty of the prosperous country-dweller to deploy "money, effort, and thoughtful care" on the neighbourhood.

Here is an old-fashioned kind of truthfulness: a level gaze which does not avert itself from the scruffy hopelessness of those council estates pushed to the edge of villages, from the decline of village shops and transport, the dearth of employment to replace traditional farming and "uneconomic" small-town manufacturing. It is not a patronising eye, but a clear one which acknowledges the despair of young people whose chance of a home is still, even in recession, being snatched away by weekend estate prices. It is not unreasonable to see both insult and injury when London weekenders come down for new year with their cars stacked high from Waitrose on the King's Road. To acknowledge rural problems is not to belittle villagers, but to take their side.

Which, traditionally, the rural problems have seen as their natural job. There have, admittedly, been high-handed landowners who oppressed

## Their island pride

Magnus Linklater watches a titanic struggle in Orkney

The crowds who saw in the new year beneath the great sandstone Cathedral of St Magnus in Orkney were in boisterous mood. Most clutched bottles of whisky which they were cheerfully ready to share; despite a bitter north-west wind, they lingered on Broad Street long after the pipe band had given up, exchanging kisses and drams with equal enthusiasm; there were signs that a long night of hard drinking lay ahead. Meanwhile, Kirkwall, the island capital, looked like a town under siege: shop-fronts boarded up, doorways protected by wooden beams, alleyways blocked off. This was not, however, a protest against mass hooliganism, but a precaution in anticipation of what was to happen later in the day.

No one is quite sure how the tradition of "the Ba" began, but it must be one of the most ancient as well as most ferocious new year sports in Britain, dating back possibly to the struggles for power between the Earls and Bishops of Orkney in the 12th century. At the stroke of 1 o'clock yesterday, a round leather ball was tossed into the assembled crowds waiting at the Mercat Cross, and for hours afterwards a titanic struggle developed, with heaving scrums formed by 200 young men (this is not a game for women) surging through the narrow streets as they attempted to gain possession of the ball. For long minutes they piled up, immobile, against a wall, then suddenly they were off, hurtling in a breakneck scramble down the pavement. It looked frankly terrifying; the crush of bodies against stone walls seemed to threaten inevitable death by suffocation. But I saw only one youth dragged from the crowd for assault.

The town is divided into two — the "uppies", trying to smuggle the ball into their own territory half-way up the town, and the "doonies", aiming to land it in the harbour at the bottom end. It is rough stuff, with bruises and broken ribs routine. But though it is a violent spectacle, it has its subtleties. There are feints and false breakaways to fool the other side, and a series of complex instructions from seasoned players who seem to have some idea about what is happening deep inside the maul. The only sport bearing any similarity to it is the Eton Wall Game, where you may also never see the ball from start to finish. But that is insipid by comparison.

One can well believe that the Ba goes back to the days when the Vikings introduced it as a game to be played with a human head as the ball. Its start at the foot of St Magnus Cathedral is entirely appropriate, for here is a direct link to the Viking era. Founded in memory of Earl Magnus of Orkney, who was murdered in 1117 by his cousin Hakon, the cathedral was built by Magnus's nephew, Earl Rognvald, one of the great medieval crusaders. It was Rognvald who took a fleet of 15 longships through the Mediterranean to Jerusalem in 1149, and who, on his return, hung his sails to dry on the pillars of the half-completed building. He was a fighter as well as a man of God, and he would have understood the Ba.

At various times, the elders and sheriffs of Kirkwall have attempted to ban it, judging it too uncouth a sport for a civilised city. But the game survived because the tradition was too strong to be broken; and today it is more popular than ever, spawning other Ba's on Christmas Day. It is more than a quaint custom: it is a vigorous expression of Orkney's strong, separate identity.

That separateness has, if anything, been reinforced in recent years. Orkney has always been a self-reliant place, and the Thatcherite notions of private enterprise and resourcefulness have suited it better than more dependent counties on the mainland. It is something of an irony that Margaret Thatcher, who was so committed to the United Kingdom, did more to emphasise a sense of individuality in its far-flung communities than any of her more revolution-inclined predecessors. There has been a steady sense of alienation from central government in Orkney since then. It has not translated into votes for the Scottish nationalists, nor even for the idea of separate status for the islands, but it has certainly undermined the Conservative cause. It would be hard to envisage this constituency ever again supporting a Tory candidate: yet until 1991, when Jo Grimond won it for the Liberals, Orkney and Shetland voted Unionist.

It is a lesson that Labour too would do well to bear in mind. Places like Orkney and the remoter rural communities of Britain are not instinctively in sympathy with new Labour. There is a sense that Tony Blair is every bit as much a prisoner of metropolitan bias as John Major, and if he is to demonstrate that he stands for all of Britain he needs to show that he is aware of its discrete needs, interests, and traditions.

I suggest he head North this time next January, ready to take part in the Ba. He should bring a stout pair of boots, a half-pint of whisky in his back-pocket, and a strong constitution. As this column went to press last night, the game was still in progress, five hours after it began, and just 500 yards from its starting-point.

## Libby Purves

himself where his mouth was and moved to live in the run-down Glasgow satellite town of Easterhouses, recently wrote that whether in town or country, it is a Christian duty for the middle class not only to support the poor in principle, but to live near them. Things, he says, would be better if we did not hide in executive estates or affluent enclaves, but came geographically closer to the poor. Our sheer talent for fussing would then guarantee better schooling, policing, transport and medical services for all; community of interests would produce Mr Major's famous "nation at ease with itself".

In some villages, this happens: people tolerate one another's weaknesses and exploit one another's strengths. The big house and the small ones can fight side by side for the school, the pub, the hall, the local bobby; meanwhile the rich man in his castle has to be civil to the poor man at his gate, because otherwise the next time his tiles blow off or his moles need catching he won't get help for weeks. The mother-and-toddler group provides a lifeline for the single girl living higger-mugger with her parents and her illegitimate baby, but

## Dramatic gift

A WELSH drama school has been given more than £300,000 towards new rehearsal rooms by its most famous alumnus, Sir Anthony Hopkins. With the aid of a sizeable grant from the National Lottery, his donation enables the Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff to undertake a £2 million development scheme in the 19th-century building which once housed Lord Bute's grace and favour flats.

Sir Anthony was unavailable yesterday, but the college's principal, Edmond Ffyt, is said to be "over the moon". Hopkins's former tutor, Tony Carter, 67 — who gave



the bandleader of *Silence of the Lambs* his music lessons in the 1950s — says the donation sets the new year off on a cracking note.

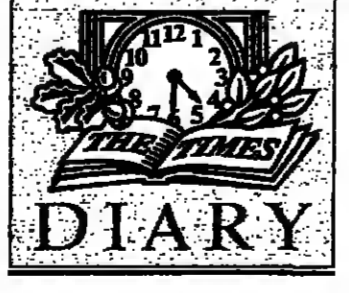
"We've had students here who think they're going off into a different world when they cross the Severn Bridge, and they never return," he said. "But Tony's Welsh roots are very strong. He often comes back and gives masterclasses."

Carter adds that he would never have suspected in the 1950s that the apple-cheeked young Hopkins would become a movie star who can command \$5 million per picture. "He wasn't bad on the piano though, I'll say that for him."

## Exaggerated

IF GETTING down to Christmas thank-you letters is a bore, spare a thought for Hughie Green, folks. The former host of *Opportunity Knocks* plans to spend the new year replying to a pile of 700 letters from admirers distressed by exaggerated reports of his death.

The body-blow came in a throwaway line before Christmas in the BBC's comedy series *The Vicar*



of Dibley, starring Dawn French. "There hasn't been a bus through the village since Hughie Green died," remarked a joker, prompting a deluge of concerned letters to the Canadian-born septuagenarian and his agent. Mr Green's claspometer has gone nuclear — he is furious that the Corporation has so far refused to correct the slip. "They reckon they're God Almighty," he barked.

## Humph

JN CATTY circles, the claws are out for John Major, who was awarded honorary membership of the Cats Protection League after Humphrey, the Downing Street cat, slunk back to No 10 in the summer.

So appalled are some cat-lovers by Major's new feline fellowship

that they have been resigning from the league in protest. They believe government policies have been less than friendly to their furry friends.

John Major, as Chancellor and subsequently as Prime Minister, has been responsible for economic policies which have caused a lot of hardship, with people losing jobs and houses and having to give up their pets," grumbles one resigner. "And the National Lottery has been bad for animal charities. It was a crass act to give Major this honour. Does he even know Humphrey? I shouldn't think so, he was just cashing in."



"Amazing how quickly a Tory can change colour"

● A vital factor in the success of the New Year's Eve policing of Trafalgar Square can now be revealed. It was the Met's mobile canteen, where bobbies could avail themselves of a steaming cappa, which for security reasons went under the codename Teapot One.

## Still sparkling

AMERICA has been starry-eyed about the late Jackie Kennedy's 40-carat sparkler, a paperweight of a ring given her by Aristotle Onassis after they married in 1968. Along with other effects, including President Kennedy's desk, it is to be auctioned by Sotheby's in New York this spring.

The rock, valued at more than \$300,000, was cut from one of the biggest diamonds ever discovered. But gossip on the glitter circuit suggests that it could soon be under the cutter's knife again.

"The savviest jewellers can't wait to grab it at the auction," explains a gem merchant. "The plan is to cut it down into 40 to 80 little diamonds, and market them as Jackie relics at \$2,000 to \$4,000 apiece."

● With peace being declared in the Balkans, Billy Graham's evangelist son Franklin has lost little time in getting out there to spread



Rockier Jackie: the word. His moustachioed minder, who sports a stetson and Cuban heels, has been an incongruous sight in Zagreb.





سكربت الأمل

Archaeology

Tomb sheds new light on Chinese culture

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

EARLY Chinese civilisation was much more widespread than scholars have hitherto thought: a tomb filled with elaborate bronzes in southern China suggests that the Shang culture was not confined to the Yellow River basin...

"There has been a tendency to place all Shang developments in the Yellow River Valley," Professor Robert Bagley, of Princeton University, said. "This is partly the effect of Chinese archaeology being run from Beijing in northern China..."

The tomb at Dayangzhou, in the Xin'gan county of Jiangxi province, dates to the 13th century BC and is the second most elaborate burial, outlasted only by the burial of Fu Hao, a royal consort interred at the Shang capital of Anyang, 600 miles to the north.

The Xin'gan tomb contained 356 pottery vessels, glazed and fired at a high temperature, 50 bronze vessels and four bronze bells, more than 400 bronze weapons and tools and 150 carved jades.

The pottery matched that from a settlement a few miles away, thought to have been the seat of the putative ruler whose death was so elaborately commemorated. Many of the bronzes show a similar regional character...

The largest bronzes are more than 3ft high, and include a square fang ding on four legs, a ritual food vessel decorated with bands of the masklike taotie device.

The discovery "amounts to a major reorientation of Shang archaeology", Professor Bagley said recently in the journal Orientations. Rather than diffusion of ideas out from a centre in the Yellow River valley, there seems to have been interaction between more widely separated regions sharing in a common culture...

The latter's adoption of writing, and its preservation on oracle bones, has for some 70 years led to their capitals at Zhengzhou and then Anyang being regarded as the fountain heads of Chinese culture. "Anyang may have a monopoly of the written evidence, but not of civilisation in China at this period", Professor Bagley said.

Etonians' lake covers remains of farms

ETONIANS will soon be rowing across a landscape far more ancient than their own college, which is a mere 556 years old (Norman Hammond writes).

Archaeological survey ahead of construction of the new Eton rowing lake has revealed settlements dating back more than 7,000 years.

The lake, which is being excavated upstream from Eton on the Thames water-meadows at Boveney, and which will serve the local community as well as the college crews, will house an eight-lane competition course similar to the national facility near Nottingham.

Neolithic activity from the succeeding period of the first farmers is indicated by a series of concentric ditches just beyond the western end of the lake: these may be a "causeway camp", similar to one at Staines just down-river, and thought to be among the earliest defended sites in England.

A Bronze Age field system between four and three thousand years old lies just north of the lake and is only slightly affected, but another and much larger area of Bronze Age fields and enclosures, shown by cropmarks, and a Romano-British farmstead, will be almost obliterated.

The local planning authority refused permission for the development some years ago, partly because of the remains, but was overruled on appeal in a decision that called the rowing lake "a national asset".



Emperor Akihito of Japan, seated second from left, and Empress Michiko, fourth from left, pose with other members of the imperial family for a formal photograph. In poems to mark the turn of the year the Emperor and Empress hope that the coming year will be peaceful

COURT CIRCULAR

The Duke of Edinburgh has been pleased to appoint Sir Brian McGrath an Extra Equerry to His Royal Highness on his retirement as Treasurer and Head of Household.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11am. The Queen's Guard mounts at Buckingham Palace at 11.30.

Birthdays today

Mr David Bailey, photographer, 58; Mr N.H. Baring, chairman, Commercial Union Assurance, 62; Sir Richard Bayliss, former Physician to the Queen, 79; Mr Leopold Brook, former chairman, Simon Engineering, 84; Mr Christopher Campbell, vice-chairman, British Rail, 60; the Duke of Devonshire, 76; Professor Sir Kingsley Dunham, geologist, 86; Sir Walter Harrison, former AIP, 75; Miss Hilary Heilbrun, QC, 47; Sir Michael Hirst, former MP, 50; Mr Doug McAvoy, trade unionist, 57; Mr Piers Merchant, MP, 45; Sir Bruce Patullo, governor and group chief executive, Bank of Scotland, 58; Sir Charles Reece, former group research and technology director, ICI, 69; Mr Edmund de Rothschild, former chairman, N.M. Rothschild and Sons, 80; the Earl of St Germans, 55; Air Marshal Sir Ernest Sides, 83; Sir Keith Thomas, President, British Academy, 63; Sir Michael Tippen, OM, CH, composer, 91; Dame Rachel Waterhouse, former chairman, Consumers' Association, 73; Sir Andrew Wood, diplomat, 56; the Right Rev Kenneth Woolcombe, former Bishop of Oxford, 72.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: James Wolfe, general and conqueror of Quebec, Westham, Kent, 1727; Gilbert Murray, scholar, Sydney, New South Wales, 1860; Count Folke Bernadotte, UN commander, Stockholm, 1895; Isaac Asimov, Russian-born American science fiction writer, Petrovichi in the Smolensk district of Russia, 1920. DEATHS: Ovid, poet, Tomi, on the Black Sea, 17AD; Friedrich Wilhelm IV, King of Prussia, 1861; Sir Edward Tyler, anthropologist, Wellington, Somerset, 1917; Eleanor Rathbone, social reformer, London, 1946; Edna May, actress, 1948; Princess Alice Countess of Athlone, 1881. The Académie Française was founded by Cardinal Richelieu, 1635. Sir Joshua Reynolds became the first president of the Royal Academy, which opened this day, 1769. The Soviets launched Luna 1, the first unmanned space rocket to pass close to the Moon, 1959. Sixty six people were killed when a barrier collapsed at Ibrox Park football ground, Glasgow, 1971.

Latest wills

Sir Stephen Harold Spender, of London NWS, the poet, and Professor of English at University College, London, 1970-77, left estate valued at £38,185 net. Mr Frederick William Stern, of London NWS, left estate valued at £2,442,388 net. Mrs Marjorie Tulip Parsons, of Lewes, East Sussex, Trekkie Parsons, the artist, widow of Ian M. Parsons, the publisher, and friend of Leonard Woolf, from whom she inherited his papers given to the University of Sussex and Monks House (transferred to the National Trust), left estate valued at £557,388 net. She left her entitlement to royalties and copyright in print published from the works of Leonard Woolf, her husband, to the Leonard Woolf Society, the National Library for the Blind, Age Concern and the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society. Lady Cantley, of Temple, London EC4, left estate valued at £1,057,411 net. Mr Eric Crosshaw, of Wiltshire, Lancashire, retired motor garage proprietor, left estate valued at £1,217,236 net. He left £318,000 and his home and effects to personal legatees, and the residue to the Leonard Woolf Society, the National Library for the Blind, Age Concern and the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society. Mr John Robert Fisher, of Denstone, Staffordshire, 1926-82, Mrs Anna Hickson, of Dover, Kent, 1926-82, Mr Gordon Keith James, of Crofton, Surrey, 1927-82, Elizabeth Warwick Morrison, of Southport, Merseyside, 1927-82, Mrs Helena Hertha Ury, of London NWS, 1928-82, Kathleen Lindsay Wigglesworth, of Chorleywood, Hertfordshire, 1929-82, Mrs Henrietta Louise Selina Wigglesworth, of Hove, East Sussex, 1931-82, Mrs Ena Violet Rose George, of Epsom, Surrey, 1931-82, Mr Roy Kahnel, of Sandal, West Yorkshire, 1931-82, Mr John Robert Leach, of Brighton, East Sussex, 1931-82, Mrs Ada Lilian Mitchell, of Hasocks, West Sussex, 1931-82.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.C. Beano-Brown and Miss C.L. Villar. The engagement is announced between Peter Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Leslie Brown, of Ivy House, Hadley Wood, Hertfordshire, and Caroline Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Villar, of Tostock Old Rectory, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. Mr J.H. Dean and Ms S.J. Neville. The engagement is announced between John, younger son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Dean, of Haywards Heath, West Sussex, and Sarah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Neville, of Home Farm, Ebbwston, North Yorkshire. Mr P.A. Edwood and Miss S.K. Addison. The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Edwood, of Lytham St Annes, and Sue, daughter of Mr and Mrs Leslie Addison, of Manuden, Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire. Mr C.T. Perry and Miss S.T.J. du Cann. The engagement is announced between Colin, son of Mr and Mrs W.S. Perry, of Bledfhampton, Hampshire, and Sarah, elder daughter of the Right Hon Sir Edward du Cann, of Alderney, and of Lady du Cann, of Cold Aston, Gloucestershire. Mr R.T. Shaxson and Miss H.C. Whitaker. The betrothal is announced of Rhydian, son of Mr and Mrs Bruce Shaxson, of Grayshott, Surrey, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Rodney Whitaker, of Toxteth, Lydbury North, Worcestershire. Mr D.C.W. Torrens and Miss L.V. Thompson. The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs John Torrens, of Northwood, Middlesex, and Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Thompson, of Hungerford, Berkshire.

University news

Queen's University of Belfast. Research projects at the university have won funding worth more than £3.4 million. The awards have come from a wide range of sources, including the Department of Economic Development's industrial research and technology unit, charities, industry, research councils, the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights, and the Northern Ireland Office. The funding is for studies in the university's faculties of agriculture and food science, arts, economics and social sciences, engineering, medicine and science. The Northern Ireland Technology Centre at Queen's, the university's environmental research initiative - the Queen's Centre - and its Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice have also benefited. The largest single grant - £872,923 from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council - has been awarded to Dr John Geddes in the School of Mathematics and Physics for research on atomic collision processes of fundamental, astrophysical and technological importance. Other grants include an award of £29,000 from the Northern Ireland Office to Professor Mike Brogan of the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice, for a Northern Ireland community crime survey. The Northern Ireland Office has also awarded a grant of £19,020 to Professor Noel Sheehy of Psychology for a study on suicide and self-harm in prisons. Appointments. The following appointments have been announced: Ingrid Allen, Professor of Neuropathology, has been appointed Chairperson of the Higher Education Research Council/Department of Health and Social Services. Evaluation of the efficacy of a community pharmacy based smoking cessation service. School of Pharmacy. Professor J.C. McElroy, £71,232 over one year and six months, Medical Research Council/Department of Health and Social Services. Evaluation of the efficacy of a community pharmacy based smoking cessation service. School of Psychology. Professor N.P. Sheehy, £19,020 over six months, Northern Ireland Office. Suicide and self-harm in prisons. Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Professor M.E. Brogan, £29,000 over one year, four months, Northern Ireland Office. Northern Ireland Community Crime Survey. School of Pharmacy and Department of Microbiology and Immunobiology. Dr S.P. Gorman, £45,721, Dr S. Patrick, £46,123. Arthritis and Rheumatism Council. Anaerobic bacteria in bone and joint infection: improved identification and treatment.

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

DEATHS: CAMPBELL - Donald, Chartered Accountant, beloved husband of the late Mrs. Lila Campbell, Secretary of the Kuwait Oil Company, died on 28th December 1995 at 58 years of age. Burial at Brookwood, Surrey, on Friday January 5th at 12.30 pm. All will be made known. Flowers may be sent, or if preferred donations to the British Red Cross Society, c/o The Friends of Brookwood Cemetery, Brookwood, Surrey, Tel: 01449 215420. All funeral notices by 10 am please.

DEATHS: GORDY-ALLEN - Peter aged 84, passed away at home on 21st December 1995 after a short illness, aged 84 years. Grace had a distinguished teaching career in primary schools and was a member of the staff of 20 years at Didsbury College, University of Manchester. Burial at St. Mary's Church, 14th St. East, Manchester, on 4th January 1996 at 12.00 pm. The Wake will be held at the same church on Friday January 5th at 12.30 pm. All will be made known. Flowers may be sent, or if preferred donations to the British Red Cross Society, c/o The Friends of Brookwood Cemetery, Brookwood, Surrey, Tel: 01449 215420. All funeral notices by 10 am please.

DEATHS: HARRINGTON - Vernon, peacefully at home on 29th December 1995, aged 82, dearly loved husband of Johanna, adored father of Jane, Louise and Susan and grandfather of Mary, Joanna, Willy, Philip, Thomas, Charles, Betty, David and Alison and great-grandfather of James, Michael, Paul and Sophie. Burial at St. John's Baptist, Whitton, on Friday 5th January 1996 at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations to the British Red Cross Society, c/o The Friends of Brookwood Cemetery, Brookwood, Surrey, Tel: 01449 215420. All funeral notices by 10 am please.

DEATHS: FEATHERSTONE-WITTY - Phillis Adelphi, On 27th December 1995 after a short illness, loving and devoted wife of the late Dr. Philip Witty, nee Deane and mother of Jane Dorothy and Maria, Service at 11.30 am, St. Michael's Church, Chelsea on Thursday January 4th, 1996 at 2.30 pm. Donations if desired to British Red Cross Society, c/o The Friends of Brookwood Cemetery, Brookwood, Surrey, Tel: 01449 215420. All funeral notices by 10 am please.

DEATHS: JEFFRIES - Brigadier Richard Clement Paul CBE, 82, died peacefully at home, Burial at Brookwood, Surrey, on Monday January 8th 1996, followed by 11.30 am cremation. Family flowers, Donations if desired to British Red Cross Society, c/o The Friends of Brookwood Cemetery, Brookwood, Surrey, Tel: 01449 215420. All funeral notices by 10 am please.

DEATHS: LOWE - Geoffrey of Wincanton, Dorset, died peacefully at home on 21st December 1995 aged 96 years. Burial at 11 am, 4th January at St. John the Baptist Church, Wincanton.

DEATHS: SHARPEY-SCHAPER - Ode Edgett, Elizabeth Beatrice nee Edgett, died peacefully at home on 21st December 1995 after a short illness, aged 84 years. Grace had a distinguished teaching career in primary schools and was a member of the staff of 20 years at Didsbury College, University of Manchester. Burial at St. Mary's Church, 14th St. East, Manchester, on 4th January 1996 at 12.00 pm. The Wake will be held at the same church on Friday January 5th at 12.30 pm. All will be made known. Flowers may be sent, or if preferred donations to the British Red Cross Society, c/o The Friends of Brookwood Cemetery, Brookwood, Surrey, Tel: 01449 215420. All funeral notices by 10 am please.

DEATHS: SMITH - Adrian Christopher, died peacefully at home on 21st December 1995, aged 57, beloved husband of Susan, loving father of James and Alison and grandfather of James, Michael, Paul and Sophie. Burial at St. John's Baptist, Whitton, on Friday 5th January 1996 at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations to the British Red Cross Society, c/o The Friends of Brookwood Cemetery, Brookwood, Surrey, Tel: 01449 215420. All funeral notices by 10 am please.

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DEATHS: BARR - suddenly on 27th December, Robert Hope (Bob), much loved husband of Marion, loving father of James, Michael, Paul and Sophie. Burial at St. John's Baptist, Whitton, on Friday 5th January 1996 at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations to the British Red Cross Society, c/o The Friends of Brookwood Cemetery, Brookwood, Surrey, Tel: 01449 215420. All funeral notices by 10 am please.

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DEATHS: GORDY-ALLEN - Peter aged 84, passed away at home on 21st December 1995 after a short illness, aged 84 years. Grace had a distinguished teaching career in primary schools and was a member of the staff of 20 years at Didsbury College, University of Manchester. Burial at St. Mary's Church, 14th St. East, Manchester, on 4th January 1996 at 12.00 pm. The Wake will be held at the same church on Friday January 5th at 12.30 pm. All will be made known. Flowers may be sent, or if preferred donations to the British Red Cross Society, c/o The Friends of Brookwood Cemetery, Brookwood, Surrey, Tel: 01449 215420. All funeral notices by 10 am please.

DEATHS: HARRINGTON - Vernon, peacefully at home on 29th December 1995, aged 82, dearly loved husband of Johanna, adored father of Jane, Louise and Susan and grandfather of Mary, Joanna, Willy, Philip, Thomas, Charles, Betty, David and Alison and great-grandfather of James, Michael, Paul and Sophie. Burial at St. John's Baptist, Whitton, on Friday 5th January 1996 at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations to the British Red Cross Society, c/o The Friends of Brookwood Cemetery, Brookwood, Surrey, Tel: 01449 215420. All funeral notices by 10 am please.

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BIRTHS: BULLARD - On December 21st, to Claire (nee Armstrong) and Richard, a daughter, Holly Catherine.

BIRTHS: DOVE - On 26th December 1995, to Clare and Andrew, a daughter, Terence Malcolm.

BIRTHS: FOUQUER - To Sophia and Adam, on December 26th, a daughter, Olivia Daisy.

BIRTHS: GLOVER - On December 26th 1995, at Watlington General Hospital, to Sarah (nee Collier) and Alec, a son, Thomas Andrew.

BIRTHS: PARKER - On 21st December 1995, to Penny (nee Dwyer) and Neil, a daughter, Constantine Maya Alice, a sister for Theo.

BIRTHS: SCOTT - On 20th December 1995, to Angus and Denise, a girl, Katherine Elizabeth.

BIRTHS: DANIELS - On December 21st, to Camilla and Brian, a son, Milo Hugh William.

BIRTHS: TALBOT-WILLIAMS - On December 26th, to Lucinda and Simon, a daughter.

BIRTHS: BARR - suddenly on 27th December, Robert Hope (Bob), much loved husband of Marion, loving father of James, Michael, Paul and Sophie. Burial at St. John's Baptist, Whitton, on Friday 5th January 1996 at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations to the British Red Cross Society, c/o The Friends of Brookwood Cemetery, Brookwood, Surrey, Tel: 01449 215420. All funeral notices by 10 am please.

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DEATHS: CAMPBELL - Donald, Chartered Accountant, beloved husband of the late Mrs. Lila Campbell, Secretary of the Kuwait Oil Company, died on 28th December 1995 at 58 years of age. Burial at Brookwood, Surrey, on Friday January 5th at 12.30 pm. All will be made known. Flowers may be sent, or if preferred donations to the British Red Cross Society, c/o The Friends of Brookwood Cemetery, Brookwood, Surrey, Tel: 01449 215420. All funeral notices by 10 am please.

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OBITUARIES

HEINER MÜLLER

Heiner Müller, dramatist, died of cancer on December 30 aged 66. He was born on January 9, 1929.

A DRAMATIST, director and poet, Heiner Müller was an outstanding challenger to the twin orthodoxies of Marxist and bourgeois theatrical and intellectual traditions in Germany.

Even before the fall of the Berlin Wall, and with many of his plays banned from the East German stage, he somehow managed to elicit from the authorities a pass enabling him to dine and drink with socialites and publishers in West Berlin and then return, swaying and perorating on the senselessness of history, across the silent guarded border in the middle of the night, back to his one room flat in the proletarian Hellersdorf high-rise district of East Berlin.

A student of Bertolt Brecht's at the Berliner Ensemble in the 1950s, Müller turned his teacher's techniques against his originator. While every bit as harsh as Brecht in his critique of capitalism, he disagreed with the playwright's residual belief in communism as a more humane system and condemned his mentor's refusal publicly to disavow Stalin.

Throughout Müller's writing runs an awareness of treachery repeating itself in great matters and small throughout German history. He charted his own fascination with the phenomenon by describing how he feigned sleep as a four-year-old in 1933 when his father, a Social Democrat in Saxony, was hauled off to an internment camp by the Nazis.

That was my first treason," he later remarked. But his approach to power was always playful — he continued to live in the East which, in his hermetic



containment and delusional aspects he found to be "like the Prussia of Kleist or the England of Shakespeare", and he even accepted the National Prize for Literature, despite the fact that many of the works for which it was granted were banned.

His work covers an extraordinary range of styles. His first play *Der Lohndrucker* (The Man Who Kept Down Wages) was a Brechtian meditation on forms of exploitation, based on the story of Hans Garbe, an East German Stakhanovite hero who risks his life to keep the factory furnaces going and meet the party's production targets. It was immediately taken off stage by the censor as politically inexpedient and not performed in the East until 1988.

The deconstruction of heroism was to be a persistent theme in Müller's oeuvre. By the early 1960s, he had departed from strict Brechtian theory and concentrated instead on the mythological treatment of history like *Germania Tod in Berlin* (Germania: Death in Berlin) which sought to place the 1953 workers' uprising in a pan-German context and restored the use of monologue to the modern German stage.

The most intricate and famous of his plays was the 1977 *Hamletmaschine* (Hamlet Machine), one of only a few of his works performed in Britain. It interweaves Shakespeare with exegeses on Baader-Meinhof terrorism, the murder of Sharon Tate and the quelling of the Hungarian uprising. Intended to be performed alongside Müller's translation of *Hamlet*, the play caused a legal battle when Michael Hamburger, Germany's foremost modern Shakespeare translator, claimed that Müller had plagiarised his work. Müller won his case when his lawyer Gregor Gysi (now a post-Communist politician) managed to convince the court that his client was genius enough to have translated the work from scratch in two months.

Diagnosed as suffering from terminal cancer in 1991, Müller had part of his oesophagus removed but continued to work, drink and smoke with gusto. His final production *Zement* (Cement) was a masterful reworking of Soviet revolutionary drama in the manner of classical Greek drama. Staged in a condemned factory in the dying industrial zone of eastern Berlin, it was accessible only with great effort, the auditorium was freezing cold and the audience had to be supplied with vodka and blankets to prevent hypothermia. By turns bizarre, confusing and touching, it was Müller's characteristic farewell to German audiences.

The last three years of his life were spent back at the Berliner Ensemble where the ailing company had called in a "five-pack" of Germany's top directors to restore its fortunes. Müller was given full control last year after a bitter power-struggle with Peter Zadek, the west German director, who disapproved of his concentration on violent themes. His autobiography *Wahr Without Battle* was published in 1992.

Müller was married three times. He is survived by his third wife, Brigitte Mayer, and their son.

deconstruction of the television medium by sitting alongside ex-Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and other worries on a podium for the best part of an hour; he said nothing, drinking noisily from a bottle of Scotch and uttering not a word. "Please," implored the host, "tell us what you think about history." "What intellectuals call history has never been more than hard work to the lower orders," replied Müller tartly. "The only national identity in Germany is the mark," was another of his *non mois* to gain national popularity. As head of the eastern branch of the German Academy of Arts, he was a robust defender of writers whom he believed had been unfairly condemned by their Western counterparts.

More than a decade later it fell to Crossman, as Secretary of State for Social Services, to offer him the post of chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission (the old National Assistance Board). Typically described by his patron as "a great, big, tall, gangling man, a real slow-working-class chap", Collison was, in fact, a good deal more impressive than that. Created a life peer by Harold Wilson in December 1964, he had earlier that year been elected chairman of the TUC and, as a Labour peer, presided over the 1965 Brighton Congress — the first member of the House of Lords ever to do so.

The National Union of Agricultural Workers had always been part of the Labour leadership's Praetorian Guard — and, though never one of the major unions, was regularly represented on the party's National Executive Committee. Its strength lay among the farm workers of East Anglia, where in the 1950s it usually got a couple of its members returned to Parliament.

Harold Francis Collison, however, did not come from there but from Gloucestershire — though he started his career as a clerk in a Port of London stevedoring firm. But he soon gave that up and moved back to Gloucestershire where he got a job first as a general farm hand before switching to working on a poultry farm.

He helped to form the Stroud and District branch of the NUAW, later becoming organiser for the counties of Gloucestershire and Wootton Bassett. In 1946 he joined the head office staff in London, being elected General Secretary in 1953 — at a time when the union still had very much in its sights the abolition of the "tied cottage" system (something it had failed to obtain even from Aneurin Bevan during his time in charge of the Aneurin Government's housing programme).

It was, however, a great source of pride to Collison that

LORD COLLISON

Lord Collison, CBE, former General Secretary of the National Union of Agricultural Workers and chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission, 1969-75, died on December 29 aged 86. He was born on May 10, 1909.



HAROLD COLLISON was an old-style trade unionist who had an increasing impact on Labour politics through his long, 17-year service on the TUC General Council. For 12 years he was chairman of its social insurance and industrial welfare committees and, as such, caught the eye of Richard Crossman who at the time was deeply involved with his 1957 national superannuation plan.

By then, of course, he qualified very much as an elder statesman — having survived four years of serving a Tory Government as chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission between 1970 and 1974. In fact, Collison got on well with Crossman's successor, Sir Keith Joseph, and when he did finally retire in 1975, it was to a Labour Social Services Secretary, Barbara Castle, that he tendered his resignation. Free of the responsibilities of the Commission, he was able to devote himself much more fully to the business of the House of Lords — where he formed a useful duo on agricultural issues with Lord John Mackie, the wealthy farmer and Labour supporter who James Callaghan appointed chairman of the Forestry Commission. Collison was a very popular member of the Upper House and, at least until ill-health overtook him, an assiduous member.

But then, in a sense, he had always been a ready-made recruit to the stage army of the great and the good. Even in his days as a union general secretary he was a natural choice for membership of government committees and royal commissions — serving on the Pilkington Committee on Broadcasting which came down heavily against ITV in 1962, the Donovan Royal Commission on Trade Unions and Employers' Associations whose recommendations predated the 1969 White Paper *In Place of Strife* and of the rolling Council on Tribunals, which gave him as useful an apprenticeship as he could have had for his later work with the Supplementary Benefits Commission. It was in recognition of these activities that he was appointed CBE by a Tory Government in 1961.

Collison married in 1946. Kate Hanks who survives him. There were no children.

JAMES HEPBURN



James Hepburn, DFC, tap dancer and airman, died on December 15 aged 88. He was born on November 3, 1907.

WITTY and debonair but a stout believer in Labour principles, James Geoffrey Cutcliffe Hepburn was a central figure in Hampstead's social and socialist scene. From an early age he moved in bohemian circles, acquainted through his mother, the poet Anna Wickham, with such literary and artistic figures as D.H. Lawrence, Edith Sitwell, David Bomberg and Malcolm Lowry — he was to remain a lifelong friend of the last.

His mother was equally at home in a political environment and a solid supporter of the suffragist movement. One of Hepburn's earliest memories was of a garden party when he and two other small boys paraded the lawns, each holding a placard. The first read "votes", the second "for" and the third "women".

Hepburn's mother was a fiercely unconventional woman. Her husband, Patrick Hepburn was a lawyer, though in his spare time he studied the planet Saturn on which he became a world authority and learnt Hebrew in order to translate the Psalms. In 1919 the family moved to a tall Victorian House on Parliament Hill — a spacious, four-storey building in which the bathroom doubled up as an aviary and the

windows looked out over Hampstead Heath.

Anna Wickham, however, could never squeeze herself into the role of model housewife which her husband expected of her and, when her youngest son died of scarlet fever, she left her husband for six months and went to Paris taking her teenage son Jim with her. Here, in *salon* society, he further widened his acquaintance, meeting such figures as Ezra Pound, Sylvia Beach, Djuna Barnes and Nina Hammett. The portrait which the latter painted of him shows the thoughtful face of the suave young man who at that time played chess with Aleister Crowley and beat him, and coolly accepted the fact that men should fight duels over his mother.

Hepburn was educated at University College School, Hampstead, but left at the age of 17 to work for the London, Midland and Scottish railway company. He had a stammer, and in the evenings his mother taught him to sing in an attempt to cure it; he also attended a nearby drama school. It was by chance that Hepburn then stumbled into a profession, becoming a repertory actor and singing for a year with Stanley Holloway in *Hit the Deck*.

His mother's friend Augustus John then introduced him to the impresario C. B. Cochran and Hepburn was invited to accompany Noel Coward as his understudy in the American tour of *This Year of Grace*. In New York Hepburn studied tap dancing. Fred Astaire had developed new tap routines, using not just snappy foot rhythms but fast balletic movements as well. It was this method of dancing which Hepburn was to adopt and take back with him to England where he taught them to his younger brother John. Together they made a double act, called first the Two Madisons and later the Hepburn Brothers.

Together they travelled the theatres of England and the Continent, happy to dance at any venue, however lowly. On their last appearance they

were bottom of the bill, while Vera Lynn was at the top.

When war broke out Hepburn joined the RAF. He had always been fascinated by aircraft and, as a child playing with a typewriter for the first time, had made his own magazine about aeroplanes. He served first as a tailgunner but, perhaps inheriting something of his father's interest in astronomy, became a navigator. Flying seemed to come naturally to him and once, out with 216 Squadron in North Africa, he successfully made a forced landing in the middle of a desert sandstorm. In 1943 he was awarded the DFC.

In 1948 Hepburn left the RAF to form a company called Eagle Aviation, pioneering the idea of freight aviation. He operated throughout the Berlin airlift, flying 28 round trips in ten days. He also became the second man ever to fly around the world from east to west. But having married in 1950 Hepburn decided that family life was incompatible with operational flying. He joined the RAF again as an air traffic controller and stayed in this role from 1951 until 1960.

In the 1960s Hepburn joined the Civil Service, working for the Ministry of Defence. The nature of his job remained a closely guarded secret. Even his wife, familiar with government operations at Blechley Park, did not know precisely what he did, though speculation was that he was involved in nuclear operations.

On retiring in 1977, Hepburn, with characteristic energy and commitment to democratic principle took a job in Heal's bedding factory and joined the Hampstead Labour Party. He also became an enthusiastic private brewer of beer, swelling down his pints to denunciations of the big breweries. He remained all his life a man of modest ambition, though his last wish, he used to say, was not to die under a Tory government.

Charles Fletcher, CBE, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology, London University, 1973-76, died on December 5 aged 84. He was born on June 5, 1911.

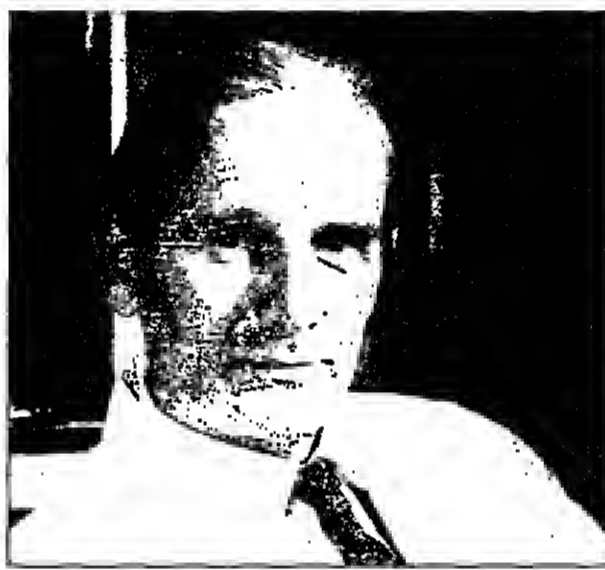
CHARLES FLETCHER was best known to the public as a pioneer in the use of television as a means of medical education. In 1949, when he first suggested that doctors should explain to patients the causes of their illnesses, he stirred up a storm of protest among conservative medical circles. But Fletcher continued to campaign and in 1958, under his aegis, the BBC began a series of television programmes entitled *Your Life in Their Hands*, which included footage of operations. In its leading articles, *The British Medical Journal* attacked this series vituperatively for several weeks in succession, arguing that giving patients information about disease was harmful and could lead to abuse.

It was a brave step that Fletcher took, and the ethical problems involved were complex, but he — a man of proven principle, with a sound medical knowledge, a pleasing on-screen personality and an attractive voice — succeeded where many others might have failed. *Your Life in Their Hands* was one of the most successful medical programmes ever produced and Fletcher continued to be medical adviser to the BBC from 1961 to 1972.

Charles Montague Fletcher had been innovative throughout his life. Having studied medicine at Trinity College, Cambridge — where he took first-class honours in both Part I and Part II of the Tripos — he worked as a Nuffield Research Fellow under Professor Leslie Wits at Oxford. It was here that he was to become the first doctor to administer penicillin to a human being.

Fletcher also pioneered the development of quantification of the chest radiographic appearances of the miners' disease, pneumoconiosis. After leaving Oxford, he went to

CHARLES FLETCHER



Cardiff as the director of the Pneumoconiosis Unit. It was here that he became aware of "observer error" — the widely different interpretation of the same chest radiograph by different observers — and, in order to introduce better standardisation, he designed a semi-quantitative scoring system (later to be extended by his colleague John Gilson) which is now accepted worldwide.

It was while in Cardiff that Fletcher became interested in the effects of inhaled particles on the lung and the natural history of chest disease and, perhaps more importantly, it was here that he found his commitment to epidemiology (at a time when this methodology was barely accepted by the academic medical fraternity) in order to study disease before the symptoms surfaced. His observations on miners contributed in a major way to the successful prevention of this form of pneumoconiosis. In recognition of this work he was appointed CBE in 1952.

Fletcher, however, longed for more direct clinical involvement in his research, and in 1952 he joined the Royal Postgraduate Medical School at the Hammersmith Hospital. Tuberculosis had just been conquered by the development of anti-tuberculous chemotherapy, so Fletcher turned his mind to the other most com-

mon chest diseases — chronic bronchitis and emphysema. He developed various new epidemiological methods, including the study of early disease in prospective cases, and spent the next twenty years of his life unravelling the natural history of these afflictions.

Working with a number of other eminent scientists, Fletcher demonstrated conclusively the direct relationship between cigarette smoking and chronic bronchitis and emphysema and it was he who was largely responsible for drafting the first and the second Royal College of Physicians reports in 1962 and 1971 to alert the public to the hazards of smoking.

Fletcher was a founder member of Action on Smoking and Health and ardently campaigned against smoking. He himself had learnt to knit during the war and recommended knitting as an occupation for those who found it hard to give up cigarettes. Each of his grandchildren had a jersey made by him. In retirement he also learnt to do tapestry and he enjoyed keeping bees in the small orchard where he lived on the Isle of Wight, and making his own bread, wine and beer. He is survived by his wife Louisa, and their three children.

Church news

Appointments  
The Rev Mary Judson, Assistant Curate, Chester-le-Street; to be Priest-in-charge, Bishopwearmouth St Mark, Millfield (Durham).  
The Rev Paul Langham, Chaplain and Fellow, St Catharine's College, Cambridge; to be Vicar, Combe Down w Monkton Combe and South Stoke (Bath and Wells).  
The Rev Pat Lawless, Curate (NSM), Christ Church, Frome; to be Curate (NSM), Mells w Vobster w Buckland Dinham, Elm, Whitley and Chantry (Bath and Wells).  
The Rev Rob Marshall; formerly Communications Officer for the diocese of London; to be media adviser (part-time) to the Archbishop of York.  
The Rev Dr Charles Miller, Priest-in-charge, New Marston (Oxford); has been ap-

pointed the Michael and Joan Ramsey Professor of Historical and Ascetical Theology, Nashotah House, Wisconsin, diocese Milwaukee, USA.

The Rev Mark Millward, Vicar, Pennywell St Thomas w Grindon St Oswald; to be whole-time Church of England Chaplain to the City Hospitals, Sunderland (NHS Trust) (Durham).  
The Rev Mark Oakley, Assistant Curate at St John's Wood; to be Chaplain to the Bishop of London (London).  
The Rev Kevin Partington, Curate, All Saints, Sallerhebble, Halifax; to be Vicar, All Saints, Pomefract (Wakefield).  
The Rev Philip Swindells, Rector, Clophill; to be also Priest-in-charge, Shillington (St Albans).

C. DAY LEWIS IS POET LAUREATE

By RITA MARSHALL  
Mr. Cecil Day Lewis, aged 83, a former Professor of Poetry at Oxford University, was named last night as Poet Laureate. He succeeds Mr. John Masefield who died last May.

An announcement from 10 Downing Street recorded the Queen's approval of Mr. Day Lewis's appointment as "Poet Laureate in ordinary to her Majesty". The poet has been a regular institution in England since the seventeenth century, and previous Poet Laureates include Wordsworth, Southey, and Tennyson.

At his home in Greenwich, last night, Mr. Day Lewis described his appointment as "enlarging". He added: "But honestly I know absolutely nothing about what this post means."

Today, Mr. Day Lewis, who has known unofficially of his appointment for a fortnight, will go to the library in King's College, London, to receive the laureate's sash from the Queen's Poet Laureate, Mr. John Masefield.

"I don't think today one has court poetry as in the eighteenth century. If something is very

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Cecil Day Lewis (1904-72) was the oldest of the 17th. Auden, Spender and Day Lewis — the writers of the "new poetry" in the early 30s. He achieved a second reputation, under the pseudonym of Nicholas Blake, as a writer of detective stories of considerable merit.

moving, something like Abernethy or perhaps the day when Prince Charles becomes Prince of Wales, there might be an opportunity or a desire to produce a poem on such a theme. Personally I shall just go on writing poetry, that's what a poet should do."

He has already written in celebration of one royal event. To commemorate the birth of Prince Andrew in 1960 he wrote an ode which was set to music by Sir Arthur Bliss and which ended with the lines:  
You princely baby, you pretty dear,  
For you we bring  
The birthday honours of the quickening year.  
Mr Day Lewis did not know he was being

ON THIS DAY

January 2, 1968

considered for the appointment until he had a letter from the Prime Minister on December 14 asking if his name could be put forward. He replied that he would be delighted.

"I was out when the next letter came from Mr Masefield that I had been chosen," Mr Day Lewis said. "It meant a lot of long giggling over Christmas. My children — Tamsin, she's 14, and Daniel, who is 10 — have been teasing me..."

By STEPHEN JESSEL  
Cecil Day Lewis, whose appointment as Poet Laureate in succession to the late John Masefield was announced last night, was once described by *The Times Literary Supplement* as "the personally favoured poet, the specially delighted-in poet of the left, but even readers whose immediate response to him is rather hesitant do, in all likelihood, feel for him something more than a grudging admiration..."

His critics have sometimes objected that he lacks the charisma that Yeats, Graves and Auden have displayed and that, his standpoint and personality are not so clearly defined in the public mind that what he says commands instant and respectful public attention.

But his poetic skill, his sincerity, his directness and his poetry often displays, in the view of many critics, a sharpness and conviction that recall the "committed" days of the 1930s and the money-for-pain movements...

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صلى الله عليه وسلم

هكذا من الأهل

NEWS

Tory infighting over defection

Tory party infighting escalated as leading figures traded insults over Emma Nicholson's defection to the Liberal Democrats...

Black Watch linked with Triads

British troops from the Black Watch infantry regiment said to have sworn a blood oath of allegiance to a Chinese secret society...

Harsh sentences

The new Bar chairman launched a blistering attack on Michael Howard's plans for minimum sentences...

Water torture

Millions of homes were without water as the thaw revealed burst pipes and mains...

Royal family values

Members of the Royal Family cut back their overseas visits by a third last year, devoting more time to work in Britain...

Saudi handover

King Fahd handed over the running of Saudi Arabia to his half-brother, Crown Prince Abdullah...

Thai search

Johanne Mashedi, a 23-year-old British solicitor, has vanished while back-packing in Thailand...

Ulster rebuff

Sir Patrick Mayhew told Ulster Unionists not to expect any deals for promising not to bring down the Government...

Gene genius

Scientists have identified the gene that makes some people extrovert and eager for new experiences...

Bloodhound wins at hunt the slipper

When Nick Harrison took off his shoes, Angus the bloodhound went to fetch his slippers. But instead of picking up his new fur-lined tartan pair...

Samaritan killed

A passer-by who tried to stop a mugging was shot dead and two of his friends injured by a gang in St Paul's, Bristol...

Teaching division

People in the Isles of Scilly are split over plans to merge the primary and secondary schools on St Mary's to form Britain's first all-through state school...

Chips are down

Egon Ronay attacked food at Charles de Gaulle airport as fit only for people with damaged palates, giving it nought out of ten for chips...

Deadly rendezvous

Three drug dealers found shot dead in a Range Rover last month trusted their killer so implicitly that they took no weapons to a so-called business meeting in an Essex country lane...

Au revoir, La Beeb

The BBC's French language service, which sustained France during the Second World War and was affectionately known as La Beeb, was silent for the first time in 58 years...

Hong Kong hope

China's top official for Hong Kong affairs called for a new dawn in Sino-British relations in the 18 months before the colony reverts to China...



Luciano Pavarotti giving an impromptu lesson to young choristers who welcomed him to Cape Town

BUSINESS

Warren's fight: The Department of Trade is to start disqualification proceedings against the boxing promoter Frank Warren after a four-year inquiry...

New look: Tom Singh has sold New Look, his family-run fashion business, to institutional investors for £170 million...

Lack of confidence: Business confidence is at its lowest ebb since 1992, according to a survey of 2,000 companies carried out by Lloyds Bank...

Pensions up: UK pension funds enjoyed a vintage year in 1995, with annual returns of 19 per cent after a poor showing in the previous 12 months...

FEATURES

A-Z of cosmetic surgery: Sagging jawline, 'baggy' eyes, flabby breasts? Dr Thomas Stuttaford on how medical science can achieve a new, improved you...

Fat chance: Why do we eat more when the festive table is laden with food? Not because we are hungry, says Nigel Lawson, but because we are greedy...

Spice of life: Quentin Letts discovers how Madhur Jaffrey blends her work as a cook with her other role as an actress...

Counselling counsel: Why lawyers in traumatic trials, such as the Rosemary West case, should be offered help to cope with the distress...

THE LAW

Reluctant hero: The actor Morgan Freeman cannot get the Hollywood roles he wants - and all because he would rather play a bad guy than a good guy...

Ignoring history: The Tate Gallery's exhibition 'Painting Blackness' looks at how black people in Britain have been portrayed over the ages...

Preaching survival: The disappearance of Richey James threw the Manic Street Preachers into months of uncertainty, but their Wembley gig proves they still have a future...

Concert in concert: The Wigmore Hall audience welcomed in the new year with a programme of 17th-century baroque music by the King's Consort...

SPORTS

Football: Liverpool kept up their Premiership challenge with a remarkable 4-2 win over Nottingham Forest. They trailed 2-0 after 18 minutes, but staged a thrilling comeback...

Cricket: England gamble on the fast bowlers Devon Malcolm and Angus Fraser in their attempt to clinch the Test series against South Africa in Cape Town...

Rugby league: Wigan scored a runaway 41-12 victory over Warrington in the Stones Championship and require one more point from their last three games to secure the title...

Golf: Barry Lane of England picked up a cheque for £660,000, the highest of his career, when he beat the South African David Frost in the World Championship at Scottsdale, Arizona...

American football: Zack Crockett, a stand-in running back, produced a record-breaking performance to lift Indianapolis Colts to victory over San Diego Chargers...

Racing: Horseracing got back on course at Exeter after ten days of frost and snow, but the last two of the seven races were abandoned because of fog...

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Adam Hart-Davis on earth's often unsung pioneers of science and invention Local Hero (BBC2, 7.30pm) Review: Matthew Bond on a Ruth Rendell thriller that fails to convince...

OPINION

Princely problems

The West should not be surprised if the Crown Prince draws back from his brother's close dependence on the West. What matters is not the Saudis copy Western ways and policies; the country's strategic importance depends more on stability, continuity and adaptation to its international role...

Emma and the Liberals

Now and again the Lib Dem would win a by-election but their successes were always overshadowed by Tony Blair. This year however, has begun with a dazzling fireworks display. Emma Nicholson's defection lends credibility to a party that had been all but eclipsed by New Labour...

Panto Bruno

For Demon Promoter don't give two hoots: We believe in mystic moggy in boots. We love Frank and Frank loves us. This year at last he'll catch the bus...

COLUMNS

LIBBY PURVES

Of course there are parallels between urban poverty and the rural kind. A nice view does not neutralise debt and despair, nor prevent you being old and cold, young and hopeless, or afraid of your violent husband...

MAGNUS LINKLATER

No one is quite sure how the tradition of 'the B\*' began, but it must be one of the most ancient as well as most ferocious new year sports in Britain, dating back possibly to the struggles for power between the Earls and Bishops of Orkney in the 12th century...

OBITUARIES

Heiner Müller, German playwright; Lord Collinson, union official; Charles Fletcher, epidemiologist; James Hepburn, dancer...

LETTERS

EU fishing quotas; future of Commonwealth Institute; royal duties 1995...



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FASHION The look of 1996: fashion designers and editors tell you what you'll want to wear

SHOWTIME Sharon Stone (right) and other coming attractions, previewed by The Times critics



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,053

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-24 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS 1 Literary club chairman's quick rhymes (8). 5 As self-effacing as Mussorgsky (6). 8 Article one put in place for promotion of public health (10). 9 Tarry rope? (4). 10 Light garnish for enhancement of presentation (6-8). 11 Reading about h in actual case (7). 13 Instrument has a key missing - send off for a new one (7). 15 Servings of fifty-cent chops (7). 18 Pry curiously at the centre of ancient monument (7). 21 Locating organ, perhaps, round East of one church (14). 22 Route leading to palace - mass on both sides (4). 23 Stargazing after midnight, with special interest in tables? (10).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,052. A grid of letters corresponding to the crossword clues.

TIMES WEATHERSAU

Table showing weather forecasts for various regions including Greater London, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Dorset, Herts & IOW, Devon & Cornwall, Wilt, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Here, Bucks, Chon, Beds, Herts & Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs, West Mid & Sh. Gwent & Glam, Shrop, Hereks & Worcs, Central Midlands, East Midlands, Lancs & Humberside, Derby & Peak, Gwynedd & Chyd, N.W. England, W & S Yorks & Gramp, N.E. England, Cumbria & Lake District, S.W. Scotland, W. Central Scotland, Eden S. Fife, Lothian & Borders, E. Central Scotland, Galloway & E. Highlands, N.W. Scotland, Caithness, Orkney & Shetland, N. Ireland.

AA ROADWATCH

Table showing AA Roadwatch information for various regions including London & SE, East of London, Midlands, Wales, East Angles, North-west England, North-east England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and other areas.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 13C (59F); lowest day temp: Mearke, Hereford & Worcester, 1C (34F); highest rainfall: Metchinham, Strathclyde, 0.67in; highest snowfall: Glasgow, 0.9in.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

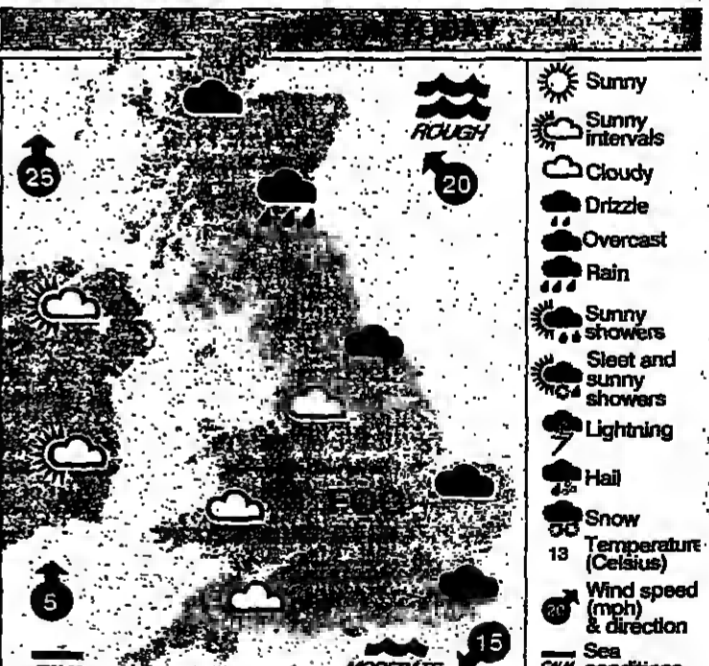
Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday, including sun, rain, clouds, drizzle, etc., for various locations like Aberdeen, London, Manchester, Birmingham, etc.

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Changes to the chart below from noon: high S will remain slow-moving near Spain, as low V fills and continues east. Low O and W will amalgamate, and remain slow-moving off the southeast tip of Greenland.

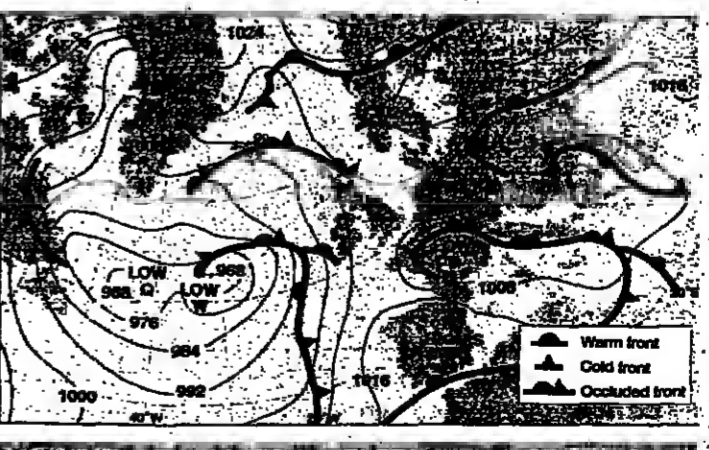


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